

THE SUN *flower*

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Perspectives

MOHAMED ELBARADEI - NOBEL LECTURE

Oslo, 10 December 2005

Your Majesties, Your Royal Highness, Honourable Members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The International Atomic Energy Agency and I are humbled, proud, delighted and above all strengthened in our resolve by this most worthy of honours.

My sister-in-law works for a group that supports orphan-ages in Cairo. She and her colleagues take care of children left behind by circumstances beyond their control. They feed these children, clothe them and teach them to read.

At the International Atomic Energy Agency, my colleagues and I work to keep nuclear materials out of the reach of extremist groups. We inspect nuclear facilities all over the world, to be sure that peaceful nuclear activities are not being used as a cloak for weapons programmes.

My sister-in-law and I are working towards the same goal, through different paths: the security of the human family.

But why has this security so far eluded us?

I believe it is because our security strategies have not yet caught up with the risks we are facing. The globalization that has swept away the barriers to the movement of goods, ideas and people has also swept with it barriers that confined and localized security threats.

To read the full lecture, visit: http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2005/12/10_elbaradei_nobel-lecture.htm.

AN ALTERNATIVE TO IRAQ DELUSIONS

by Richard Falk,* 17 December 2005

The American public needs to force its leaders to act before the Iraq war becomes even more a replica of the Vietnam tragedy.

When United States Congressman John Murtha made his passionate speech on 17 November calling for the withdrawal of US forces from Iraq within six months, it seemed for an instant as though the public mood had swung so strongly against the Iraq policies of the Bush administration that to hope for a change of course wasn't unrealistic.

A month on, any such hopeful prospect of addressing the realities of Iraqi failure has now vanished beneath a presidential sky beclouded by tired reiterations of an utterly unconvincing "plan for victory". Indeed the rededication to "complete victory" recalls the May 2003 delusion of "mission accomplished" proclaimed on a banner draped in the background while Bush delivered his notoriously premature speech of celebration on the deck of the USS Lincoln.

Murtha's ideas were the reflections of a foreign-policy hawk that had the integrity and prudence to cut American losses in Iraq, and thereby diminish the prospects of a deeper tragedy. The timetable of his basic proposal could be faulted, but not

the principle. I think a year makes more sense, to give time to the main Iraqi political forces to take account of the US departure and strike a deal based on compromise and reconciliation. As long as American forces remain, the imbalances between the main groupings in Iraq -- especially the privileged positions of the Kurds and Shi'a -- virtually guarantee a prolonging, and even an escalation, of the violent civil strife.

**Richard Falk, chair of the board of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, is the author of Religion and Humane Global Governance (Palgrave) and, most recently, The Great Terror War (Olive Branch). He is currently Distinguished Visiting Professor of Global Studies at UC Santa Barbara.*

To read the full article, please visit: http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2005/12/17_falk_alternative-to-iraq-delusions.htm.

Take Action

HELP STOP THE NEW BOMB PLANT IN OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE

Write a letter to the Department of Energy urging them not to build a new bomb plant at the Y12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

BACKGROUND

The Y12 National Security Complex is the only full-scale operating production facility in the DOE complex authorized to fabricate highly enriched uranium components. Y12 has produced the "secondaries" - the thermonuclear part - of every nuclear weapon in the US arsenal.

Currently Y12's main work is the Stockpile Life Extension Program; performing "life extension upgrades" on old warheads so they can be certified reliable for 100-120 years.

Y12's mission also includes dismantling old and retired warheads, maintaining some secondaries in a strategic reserve, and disposing of excess materials, including Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU).

In 2001, under pressure from Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA), the Department of Energy (DOE) prepared its first-ever Environmental Impact Statement for Y12. That document authorized the building of two facilities - an HEU storage facility and a non-nuclear chemical processing facility. The HEU storage facility is being built. The non-nuclear facility was not built and the Record of Decision was downsized to "upgrade in place."

On November 28, 2005, the DOE announced the preparation of another Y12 Site Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) and a comment period for "scoping." Scoping is when the public gets to tell DOE what issues and concerns it wants included in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This EIS explores four options for future operations at Y12, including:

- The No Action alternative would continue Y12 operations as they are today.
- No Action Plus (DOE's Alternative 1) would build a new, state-of-the-art HEU processing and production facility to consolidate operations that currently happen in eight aging buildings under one roof - smaller footprint, less security, more efficiency, etc. The estimated price tag is \$1.2 billion.
- Alternative 2 is to upgrade current facilities in place, continue operations, upgrade utilities, but there will be no new building.
- Alternative 3 is to let facilities degrade, close them when they are too dangerous to operate safely, and gradually lose production capacity.

The comment period for this scoping process has been extended to 31 January 2006. Send a letter today to the Department of the Energy using talking points prepared by the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance. To send your comments, visit: <http://capwiz.com/wagingpeace/issues/alert/?alertid=8341676&type=CU>.

For more information on Y12, visit OREPA's website at: <http://www.stopthebombs.org>.

Nonproliferation

PAKISTAN ANNOUNCES BAN ON NUCLEAR MATERIALS & TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS

On 27 December 2005, the Pakistani Foreign Ministry announced that the country has notified a strict ban on the export of the technologies, materials and equipment related to nuclear and biological weapons and their delivery systems. The Control Lists were announced pursuant to the Export Control Act on Goods, Technologies, Materials Equipment related to nuclear and biological weapons and their delivery systems which was adopted by the Parliament in September 2004.

According to a Foreign Ministry statement, the control lists adopted by Pakistan encompass the lists and scope of export controls maintained by the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), the Australia Group (AG) which relates to biological agents and toxins, and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

Lists controlling the exports of chemical weapons related agents and their delivery system are already being maintained by Pakistan pursuant to the Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Ordinance 2000.

The control lists are being sent to all concerned, including manufacturers of such goods and technologies, as well as to the enforcement agencies for effective controls at the borders.

The Foreign Ministry statement also said that Pakistan plans to generate 8800 MWs of nuclear power by the year 2025 and will build additional nuclear power plants under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. The statement said that all of Pakistan's existing nuclear power generation plants are under IAEA safeguards. According to the Foreign Ministry statement, Pakistan believes that effective and robust export controls should facilitate international cooperation in the area of civilian nuclear technology under safeguards.

Source: "Pakistan bans export of nuclear materials, equipment," Islamic Republic News Agency, 27 December 2005.

Proliferation

DUTCH BUSINESSMAN CONVICTED OF SELLING DUAL-USE TECHNOLOGY TO PAKISTAN

On 16 December 2005, Dutch businessman Hank Slebos was convicted and sentenced to a one-year jail term for four shipments dual-use nuclear technology to Pakistan between 1999 and 2002. Slebos's company sold the dual-use equipment to Abdul Qadeer Khan, the Pakistani scientist who has acknowledged secretly passing on nuclear technology to Libya, North Korea and Iran. The shipments included a barometer, o-rings, 104 pieces of graphite and

20 kilograms (45 pounds) of triethanolamine - an industrial chemical that can be used in refining uranium. Slebos, director of Slebos Research BV, was also fined \$120,000 and put on probation for two years.

Reading the court's ruling, Presiding Judge Reinier van Zutphen said, "Stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction is of very large national and international concern. The court cannot assess how much damage was done (by the shipments) but that's irrelevant in this case." While the prosecution had demanded an 18-month sentence, Judge van Zutphen said that he would recommend Slebos only serve four months of his sentence, but that will be up to Slebos' parole board.

Slebos denied violating the letter of the law, though he conceded his company made the shipments. He said he believed Pakistan needed a nuclear capability to establish a regional balance with India, its nuclear-armed rival. After the ruling, Slebos said, "It was no different between the United States and Russia during the cold war."

The court granted Slebos two weeks to consider an appeal. Slebos said he needed time to think about his next move. He agreed when asked whether he felt singled out for prosecution when hundreds of companies around the world had also delivered equipment to Khan's laboratories.

Source: "Dutch Man Jailed for Selling Nuclear Technology to Pakistan," Sci-Tech Today, 16 December 2005.

Nuclear Legacy

CONGRESSMAN WINS EFFORT TO PRESERVE RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT RECORDS

On 19 December 2005, H.R. 2633, which declares a Department of Defense moratorium on the destruction of military records that may hold important historical data on radioactive fallout, was included in the final FY 2006 Defense Authorization bill.

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS), in its review of a Centers for Disease Control study into the health consequences to Americans from nuclear weapons testing, pointed out that the Department of Defense (DOD) has not declared a moratorium on the destruction of records. The NAS study found that both the Navy and the Air Force have important documents that should be archived.

H.R. 2633, introduced by Congressman Jim Matheson (D-Utah), adopts a recommendation by the NAS urging Congress to better preserve historical data related to military personnel's exposure to radioactive fallout from past nuclear weapons tests. Matheson's legislation, entitled "The Department of Defense Historical Radiation Records Preservation Act," directs the Defense Department to "identify, preserve and publish" information contained in these records.

Congressman Matheson stated, "Atmospheric testing was a dark period in our history for many Americans and questions about long-term cancer risks are unanswered. This requirement to preserve the limited records from that time ensures they'll be available for scientific study."

Source: "Matheson Wins Effort to Preserve Radioactive Fallout Records, Halts Destruction by Defense Department," Press Release, Congressman Matheson's office, 19 December 2005.

SENATORS JOIN FORCES TO INCREASE COMPENSATION TO RADIATION VICTIMS

On 16 December 2005, Senator Conrad Burns (R-Montana) joined with Senator Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) to introduce legislation amending the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) to include their two states as eligible regions. Both previously had introduced separate bills.

Congress passed RECA in 1990 before it was clear where the radioactive byproducts of nuclear testing had the biggest impact. RECA offers payments to civilians who lived in states designated downwind from nuclear bomb tests and who contracted specific types of cancer - particularly thyroid cancer - years after their exposure to Iodine-131.

A 1997 study by the National Cancer Institute revealed Montana has 15 counties with the highest exposure but not currently eligible for compensation. The National Academy of Sciences recently issued a report saying Montana is one of the worst affected states. The Burns-Crapo bill would amend RECA to include any Montanan afflicted with thyroid or other cancers related to radiation exposure.

To receive compensation under RECA, the claimant must have lived downwind of atmospheric nuclear tests for a period of at least two years between January 21, 1951 and October 31, 1958 and must have contracted one of the specified diseases.

"[The] actions by Montana Senator Burns and Idaho Senator Crapo are a significant step toward bringing justice and aid to the Cold War fallout victims in their states," said J. Truman, director of Downwinders, a grassroots foundation advocating RECA amendments. He continued, "By combining their current bills, they are building the unity among western states needed to win expansion of current fallout compensation and seeing that those forgotten downwinders in the most heavily exposed areas downwind of the Nevada Test Site receive the aid and help they should have received long ago."

Source: "Burns, Crapo introduce radiation victims legislation," Missoulian.com, 19 December 2005.

RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL FOUND IN CHECHEN FACTORY

On 17 December 2005, Chechen officials announced that investigators found nuclear contamination 58,000 times

above safe levels on the premises of a ruined factory. According to prosecutors, it was not clear why the radioactive source had been kept in the Chechen factory, but it posed a severe threat to anyone who came near to it. Prosecutors said the contamination was from Cobalt-60 - a variation of cobalt used as a source of radiation in food processing, hospitals and elsewhere.

Chechen prosecutor Valery Kuznetsov stated, "This is above all now a threat to the population, because the leadership and officials of the firm did not take the necessary steps to isolate the isotope."

"This is not a one-day problem. This problem of radiation leaking into Grozny's air has been going on for a decade," said a member of Chechnya's emergencies committee who asked not to be named. He said looters had uncovered the materials.

Chechen officials did not suggest the radioactive materials could fall into the hands of militants, although Cobalt-60 has been identified as one of the most likely elements to be used to make a so-called "dirty bomb."

Almost all of Grozny was destroyed by Russian bombing in 1999-2000 when Russian troops poured back into the region to reassert central control over separatist rebels, who still attack troops and police daily. Once a mighty industrial center, Grozny's factories are now a wasteland of twisted steel - many of them dotted with machine gun nests.

Source: "Nuclear waste found in ruined Chechen factory," Reuters, 17 December 2005.

1975 BRITISH NUCLEAR SECRETS REVEALED

On 29 December 2005, the British National Archives released government records from 1975 detailing the British government's plans in the event of nuclear war. The documents, which were never seen by the public before, reveal that government bunkers would be manned by civil servants, emergency legislation would be passed, and hospitals would be emptied. TV was to close down, and the BBC to begin a wartime service on radio. The prime minister would be taken to his bunker but there were no plans at that time to evacuate civilians. The documents also revealed that art treasures from London and Edinburgh would be saved by being sent to slate mines in Wales.

On the preparations for a nuclear attack historian Peter Hennessy said the documents were the most secret he had ever seen. According to Hennessy, "These were the Crown Jewels of genuine official secrecy...because you didn't want the other side to get your war plans. Also the degree of alarm for the civilian population, in relatively tranquil times, that a leakage of this would have produced would have been extraordinary."

Source: "Nuclear secrets of 1975 revealed," BBC News, 29 December 2005.

US GOVERNMENT MONITORS MUSLIM SITES FOR NUCLEAR RADIATION

The US government has a top secret program to monitor the homes, workplaces and mosques of Muslims in at least six cities for signs of nuclear radiation. According to a new report from US News and World Report, up to 120 Muslim sites in the Washington DC area, and more in New York, Chicago, Seattle, Detroit and Las Vegas, have been regularly monitored for radiation for more than three years over concerns about nuclear terrorism following the September 11, 2001 attacks.

The report said the monitoring by the FBI and the Department of Energy's Nuclear Emergency Support Team has sometimes involved government agents entering properties without search warrants or court orders, an act some agents and outside lawyers believe is illegal. An unnamed source involved in the program said, "The targets were almost all US citizens. A lot of us thought it was questionable, but people who complained nearly lost their jobs."

Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said that the surveillance program was moving in the direction of "governing by fear." Awad said, "I'm afraid that we are moving into a nation of fear ... and scapegoating minorities like American Muslim communities."

The Bush administration has recently come under criticism over revelations that government agencies - including the National Security Agency, the Department of Defense, and the FBI - spied on US citizens without first obtaining court orders as mandated by law. President Bush, who authorized the NSA surveillance, maintains that the spying is legal, and that he has the legal authority to permit such activities.

Source: "US monitors mosques for nuclear radiation: report," AFP, 24 December 2005.

NORTH KOREA WON'T NEGOTIATE UNTIL US LIFTS SANCTIONS

On 3 January 2006, North Korea announced it would boycott multilateral nuclear disarmament talks until the US lifts sanctions imposed on North Korea for its alleged illegal financial activities. The North Korean official Rodong Sinmun newspaper said, "While under U.S. sanctions, it's impossible to sit face-to-face and discuss abandoning our nuclear deterrent."

Meanwhile, the pro-North Korea Choson Sinbo newspaper in Japan stated that North Korean leader Kim Jong Il is "determined to go on an all-out offensive" and will take a "resolute measure" on the nuclear standoff, the Yonhap News Agency reported.

Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Dongguk University in Seoul, South Korea said they could be considering boosting its nuclear arsenal or testing a missile. A nuclear test was unlikely, though, according to Koh, "as it would provoke China and other neighboring countries too much."

On 2 January 2006, the London Times reported that a top US nuclear scientist has claimed that North Korea is working to restart a reactor that could produce 10 atomic bombs worth of plutonium per year. Former Los Alamos National Laboratory director Siegfried Hecker, who visited North Korea twice in the past two years, also said the country reprocessed 8,000 fuel rods last summer to produce up to 14 kilograms of plutonium. According to Hecker, "They have the plutonium. We have to assume the North Koreans can and have made a few nuclear devices."

Source: "North Korea Refuses Nuke Talks, Cites U.S. Sanctions," Global Security Newswire, 3 January 2006.

RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL STOLEN IN VENEZUELA

On 19 December 2005, Venezuela announced that a truck carrying a capsule of highly radioactive iridium 192 was stolen the night before. Civil defense director Col. Antonio Rivero stated, "We have a state of emergency at a national and regional level and are looking for the capsule everywhere."

Rivero indicated authorities believe the thieves unknowingly took the capsule while stealing the truck. However, Angel Diaz, nuclear affairs director at the Venezuelan Energy Ministry, said he could not discount the possibility that the material was taken for "malicious purposes."

Source: "Radioactive Material Stolen in Venezuela," Global Security Newswire, 20 December 2005.

NORTH KOREA TELLS KEDO TO WITHDRAW

On 13 December 2005, North Korea demanded that all Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) workers withdraw from the country's nuclear reactor site by early January. The order will force KEDO to abandon equipment and materials at the construction site for the unfinished Kumho nuclear energy plant.

According to a South Korean Unification Ministry Official, "We are talking with the North Koreans about how to withdraw."

North Korea also called on the Bush administration to remove US Ambassador to South Korea Alexander Vershbow for recent remarks in which he branded North Korea a "criminal regime." On 14 December, the official Minju Joson newspaper announced, "Ambassador Vershbow is the most bitchy and malignant ambassador in history."

Many South Korean officials also objected to Vershbow's comments, with one ruling party legislator calling on him to curb his rhetoric or leave.

Source: "North Korea Tells Kedo to Leave," Global Security Newswire, 14 December 2005.

FORMER RUSSIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY MINISTER EXTRADITED TO RUSSIA

On 30 December 2005, former Russian Nuclear Energy Minister Yevgeny Adamov was extradited to Russia to face an investigation into US allegations that he embezzled millions of dollars in nuclear safety aid delivered by the US to Russia. The US had sought Adamov's extradition from Switzerland, but a Swiss court ruled he would be returned to Russia. Adamov was indicted in the US in 2005 on conspiracy, money laundering and tax evasion charges. Russian prosecutors made a formal pledge to Switzerland's Justice Ministry that they would investigate the US charges.

Source: "Ex-Nuclear Minister Extradited to Russia," Global Security Newswire, 3 January 2006.

INDIA AND PAKISTAN EXCHANGE NUCLEAR FACILITIES LIST

On 1 January 2006, nuclear-armed rivals Pakistan and India exchanged lists of their nuclear facilities in line with an agreement to swap such information annually on New Year's Day. The two countries exchanged the information under an agreement signed in 1988 on the prohibition of attacks on each other's nuclear installations. The agreement came into force in 1991 and the first such exchange of information was on 1 January 1992. Under the agreement both Pakistan and India are to refrain from attacking each other's nuclear facilities in the event of a war.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars, two of them over the Himalayan region of Kashmir which is divided between them and claimed in full by both. After coming close to another war in 2002, in January 2004 they began talks to resolve all their disputes including the Kashmir issue. The next round of official peace talks is scheduled to take place from 17-18 January 2006 in New Delhi.

Source: "India and Pakistan swap list of nuclear facilities," AFP, 1 January 2006.

Missiles and Missile Defense

10TH GROUND-BASED MIDCOURSE INTERCEPTOR EMPLACED AT FT. GREELY, ALASKA

On 14 December 2005, a Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) Interceptor was successfully flight tested, launching from its silo in the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. It was the first successful test launch since October 2002. In both the February 2005 and December 2004 tests, the interceptors failed to launch from their silos because of hardware and software problems. Because of the system's unreliability the 14 December 2005 launch was a test of the interceptor's rocket motor, kill vehicle and subcomponents, and not a more ambitious attempted intercept of an incoming missile.

On 17 December 2005, the US Missile Defense Agency (MDA) announced the 10th GMD Interceptor was emplaced in a silo at Ft. Greely Alaska. To date, eight GMD Interceptors have been emplaced at Ft. Greely, Alaska, and two at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. The GMD system consumes the majority of missile defense research, development and testing appropriations. In mid-December the US House of Representatives approved \$7.8 billion for missile defense systems. In all, the US spends roughly \$9 billion a year in developing layered missile defenses, including ground, sea and space-based components.

Sources: Wolf, Jim, "US touts successful missile-defense test," Reuters, 14 December 2005; "GMD System Now Has 10 Interceptors," Defense Daily, 21 December 2005.

RUSSIA SUCCESSFULLY TESTS ADVANCED BALLISTIC MISSILE

On 21 December 2005, Russia test launched its most advanced, albeit developmental, missile. The Bulava submarine launched ballistic missile was fired from the submerged Dmitry Donskoy ballistic missile submarine in the White Sea. It was the second launch of the Bulava, but the first from a submerged and moving submarine. The first test was conducted 27 September while the Dmitry Donskoy was surfaced.

The Bulava has a range of 10,000 km (6,214 miles) and is invulnerable to all but boost-phase ballistic missile defenses. According to the Russian Defense Ministry, the Bulava and its associated advanced technology do not present a proliferation threat because Russia is not likely to sell a missile capable of defeating its own limited defenses and because few other nations have submarines capable of launching the new missile.

Source: "Bulava missile launched in White Sea - Defense Ministry," RIA Novosti, 21 December 2005.

ISRAEL TESTS ADVANCED MISSILE DEFENSES AGAINST MOCK IRANIAN MISSILE

On 2 December 2005, Israel successfully tested the Arrow missile defense system over the Mediterranean. The Arrow interceptor missile was launched from Palmachim Air Force Base and successfully intercepted a Black Sparrow target missile during the terminal phase of its flight. The Arrow test was a simulated intercept of an incoming Iranian Shahab-3 ballistic missile.

Arieh Herzog, Director of the Israeli Missile Defense Organization, spoke with Jane's Defense Weekly on the Arrow test and said, "We have never before tried the Arrow against the Shahab characteristics, but we know now that we are capable of intercepting all existing ballistic missile threats in the region, whether conventional or non-conventional, and we are developing capabilities to deal with future threats."

The object of the test was to examine the Arrow's ability to intercept at extended ranges, and its compatibility with the Green Pine radar and Patriot missile defense system. The test proved the Arrow system capable of operating as the first layer in a missile defense system, providing enough time for a Patriot interceptor to be fired as a secondary defense should the high altitude Arrow fail to intercept an incoming missile. The Arrow interceptor missile, developed by Israel Aircraft Industries and Boeing, is arguably the most advanced terminal phase missile interceptor in the world.

Sources: "Defense establishment completes test of Arrow missile system" Ha'aretz, 3 December 2005; Ben-David, Alon, "Israel's anti-ballistic missile test pushed altitude boundaries," Jane's Defence Weekly, 5 December 2005.

Nuclear Energy & Waste

RUSSIAN NUCLEAR ACCIDENT LEAVES ONE DEAD, TWO INJURED

On 16 December 2005, one worker was killed, two injured, at the Ecomet-S radioactive metal smelting plant, which is part of the Leningrad nuclear power plant in Sosnovy Bor. According to officials, hundreds of pounds of molten metal splashed from a smelter severely burning the workers and damaging equipment, but did not cause damage to the reactors or lead to any radioactive release.

Oleg Bodrov, a physicist who directs the Green World ecological group in Sosonovy Bor, said the accident occurred because there is no independent environmental monitoring laboratory in the area to assess operations at Ecomet-S. According to Bodrov, the plant regularly violates technical and production regulations. The only independent laboratory capable of assessing environmental and technical operations at the plant was closed years ago for lack of funding.

Source: "Russian nuclear plant accident kills 1, injures 2," Associated Press, 16 December 2005.

US FIRM LOSES NUCLEAR MATERIAL, FINED \$96,000

The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) fined the San Francisco-based Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) \$96,000 on 21 December 2005 for violating requirements related to the storage of spent radioactive fuel and other radioactive material at its decommissioned Humboldt Bay reactor in Northern California. The NRC learned of the violations from a July 2004 PG&E report to the NRC which indicated three fuel rods as well as radioactive incore detectors could not be accounted for.

After learning of the violations the NRC conducted special inspections at Humboldt Bay to review the plant's physical securi-

ty and to ensure proper corrective actions had been taken to prevent further violations. The NRC concluded that PG&E failed to keep adequate records of special nuclear material, failed to establish proper procedures for control and accounting, and failed to conduct adequate physical inventories of special nuclear material.

Following the special inspections, the NRC determined it is highly unlikely the missing fuel rods and incore detectors were stolen or pose any risk to the public, and were likely shipped to a low-level waste disposal site somewhere in the US.

Although the material was lost more than 30 years ago, PG&E's violations are considered the second most serious in the NRC's enforcement program. PG&E said it will not protest the fine and intends to pay the full amount.

Sources: "PG&E to Pay \$96,000 Nuclear Plant Fine," Associated Press, 21 December 2005; US Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

PAKISTAN, CHINA TO EXPAND NUCLEAR COOPERATION

On 28 December 2005, China and Pakistan agreed to expand the scope of existing nuclear energy cooperation agreements. Sun Qin, China's Minister for Science and Technology and Chairman of China's Atomic Energy Authority, assured Pakistan's Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz that China will continue to cooperate with Pakistan, and assist in Pakistan's ambitious plan to build as many as eight new reactors by the year 2030.

During a meeting of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission on 30 December, Aziz announced that increasing nuclear generating capacity by 8,800 MW will become a national priority.

The expanded Sino-Pak nuclear partnership follows the controversial agreement between the US and India whereby the US will supply India with civil nuclear material so long as India separates its civil and military nuclear programs. The Sino-Pak nuclear partnership is similarly controversial in that both India and Pakistan are not parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and are unofficial nuclear-weapons states.

Source: "Pakistan launches nuclear project," BBC News, 28 December 2005; "Pakistan, China agree to further enhance nuclear cooperation," Asian Tribune, 29 December 2005; "Pak plans to produce 8,800 MW of nuclear power by 2030: Aziz," Rediff, 30 December 2005.

CHINA'S MASSIVE NUCLEAR ENERGY PROJECT STALLED

Chinese officials originally planned to announce the winner of an \$8 billion contract to build four new nuclear power plants in October 2005. On 20 December 2005, Chinese officials involved in the negotiations said they plan to postpone the bid indefinitely. It's likely the Chinese are delaying the bid to force the three international firms vying for the contract - Westinghouse Electric, Areva, and Atomstroiexport - to compete and lower their prices and relax their control over the transfer of nuclear technology. When the bid is announced, presumably in early 2006, it will confirm China's commitment to increase its nuclear power generating capacity 400% by the year 2020.

Source: "China's \$8 bln nuclear deal postponed indefinitely," Reuters, 20 December 2005.

Nuclear Laboratories

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-BECHTEL TEAM AWARDED LOS ALAMOS CONTRACT

On 21 December 2005, the University of California-Bechtel Corporation-led consortium was awarded the new contract to manage the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The contract will enter into effect in June 2006.

The UC-Bechtel consortium, called Los Alamos Security LLC, also includes New Mexico's three research universities. In addition, the consortium includes engineering and construction firms Washington Group International and BWX Technologies, which manage the Savannah River Site nuclear weapons plant in South Carolina and the Pantex nuclear weapons plant in Texas, respectively, among their other projects within the US nuclear complex.

The other competitor in the Department of Energy-sponsored bid was a team headed by the University of Texas and weapons contractor Lockheed Martin, which most onlookers considered the favorite to win the bid.

UC has managed LANL exclusively since 1943. In 2003, the Department of Energy (DOE) announced that the contract would be put up for bid, following a series of publicity scandals at the lab for which the press and Congress largely blamed UC.

LANL also resumed plutonium pit production activities in 2003. Its pit production capacity is slated to expand in coming years. As manager of the Pantex plant, BWX Technologies is especially qualified to oversee weapons productions activities.

"What is most important is the mission, not the manager - and the mission is changing," said Greg Mello, director of the Los Alamos Study Group. "Congress has tentatively directed LANL to make plutonium pits for both existing and new types of weapons. This, as well as design of new weapons and certification of old ones, are LANL's three biggest missions."

Mello continued, "The new contractors, unless the public and the Congress succeed in changing the situation, are expected to succeed at all three missions, two of which - designing and producing new weapons for the stockpile - are new. If they do succeed, they will be rewarded with up to 20 years of no-bid, multi-billion-dollar government contracts, and the political influence that goes with them."

This marks the first time a corporation has helped manage the northern New Mexico nuclear laboratory. The seven-year management contract is worth up to \$79 million a year and may be extended for another 13 years, depending on the contractor's performance.

For more information on the bid, please visit: <http://www.ucnuclearfree.org>.

Sources: "UC Gets Contract to Run Los Alamos Lab," Associated Press, 21 December 2005; "Bechtel, UC, BWXT, Washington Group Win Contract to Manage Los Alamos Lab: Reaction," Los Alamos Study Group, 21 December 2005.

FIVE WORKERS EXPOSED TO DEADLY PLUTONIUM AT LANL

On 19 December 2005, five Los Alamos National Laboratory employees were exposed to deadly plutonium in an accident at the lab's Technical Area 55.

The workers were removing the cover from a container of plutonium, when a puff of the plutonium escaped, after which automated sensors detected the release. The workers were examined by lab medical personnel, and plutonium was found inside their noses. Four other workers were inside the room at the time, though they apparently were not contaminated and no plutonium was released into the environment, according to lab spokespeople.

The lab workers have not been hospitalized, though they are under around-the-clock medical supervision by LANL doctors.

Sources: Davidson, Keay, "Los Alamos Lab Chief Leaves No Doubt Who's in Charge," San Francisco Chronicle, 23 December 2005; "The Los Alamos Petri Dish," Project on Government Oversight, 22 December 2005.

HIGH CHROMIUM LEVELS FOUND IN LOS ALAMOS AQUIFER

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) scientists have discovered chromium contamination in the Los Alamos regional aquifer that is more than four times federal drinking water standards. The discovery has prompted the New Mexico Environment Department to order an "aggressive investigation" into the "source and magnitude" of the contamination.

The state agency has given the University of California and the Department of Energy (DOE) 90 days to formulate a work plan to reduce or prevent the chromium from migrating into Los Alamos drinking water, in addition to devising what it terms "long-term corrective measures."

The elevated chromium levels were detected in a monitoring well in Mortandad Canyon, about a mile from the nearest drinking water supply well. State and federal regulators stressed that Los Alamos' drinking water has not been contaminated.

According to Environment Department officials, LANL workers had discovered elevated chromium levels as far back as January 2004 but failed to notify the state. "I'm very concerned about the lab's apparent failure to notify (the Environment Department) and the public of this contamination in a timely manner," New Mexico Environment Secretary Ron Curry said.

Chromium is a metal that occurs naturally in the environment but is also used in stainless steel, metal coatings, paint pigments and in water-cooling towers. Prolonged exposures to high levels of chromium can cause kidney, liver and nerve damage.

Sources: Arnold, John, "High Chromium Levels Found in Los Alamos Aquifer," Albuquerque Journal, 24 December 2005; Arnold, John, "LANL to Investigate Chromium Levels," Albuquerque Journal, 30 December 2005.

DOE BLAMES WORKERS' CONTAMINATION ON WASHINGTON GROUP INTERNATIONAL

In December 2005, Department of Energy (DOE) investigators revealed that a series of employee mishaps involving deadly radioactive plutonium stored at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) exacerbated a number of accidents last year that contaminated employees.

The three workers who were contaminated might face a lifetime of special medical scrutiny. The incidents occurred in April and August 2004.

In one of the incident in question, workers casually continued working with plutonium while emergency alarms blared around them, warning of a possible contaminant hazard. In another instance, workers unknowingly brushed plutonium particles off cutting tools, causing the radioactive particles to become airborne, before being inhaled or ingested by three workers.

The workers were employed by Washington TRU Solutions, a subsidiary of Washington Group International, which oversees radioactive waste transportation from LLNL to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico. The DOE has fined Washington TRU \$192,500 for the violations that led to and compounded the incidents, including failure to outfit the facility with proper ventilation.

Source: Davidson, Keay, "Contractor Faulted for Accidents at Lab," San Francisco Chronicle, 24 December 2005.

OAK RIDGE FINED FOR SAFETY VIOLATIONS

In December 2005, the Department of Energy (DOE) reprimanded and fined a facility manager at the Oak Ridge nuclear weapons complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. University of Tennessee-Battelle LLC was fined \$100,000 for failing to comply with radioactive material inventory limits at Oak Ridge, as well as at the neighboring Y-12 plant site. DOE officials say the fine might have been higher, but UT-Battelle LLC responded promptly to the errors.

Source: "Oak Ridge Manager Cited for Safety Violations," Global Security Newswire, 19 December 2005.

OAK RIDGE URANIUM FACILITIES TO BE DESTROYED

The Department of Energy (DOE) has ordered that the process for dismantling former uranium enrichment facilities at Oak Ridge Laboratory be accelerated. Employees of a Bechtel subsidiary, Bechtel Jacobs Co., have been doing preliminary work on the K-25 and K-27 enrichment facilities. They will now begin removing uranium deposits, injecting stabilization into foam pipes, dismantling equipment, and, ultimately, destroying the structures. The DOE has mandated that work be completed by the end of 2008.

The K-25 site was formerly used to separate uranium isotopes and concentrate for U-235 for weapons. No work has been done there since the mid-1960s.

Source: "Oak Ridge Uranium Facilities to Be Destroyed," Global Security Newswire, 21 December 2005

UNREGULATED NUCLEAR WASTE DISCOVERED AT SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORY

At least 26 different sites at Sandia National Laboratory in New Mexico store radioactive and hazardous materials that are not regulated by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), according to public interest group Citizen Action. The organization obtained the information on the unauthorized toxins by filing a series of Freedom of Information Act requests.

According to the documents acquired by Citizen Action, the waste in the 26 sites was generated by experiments that simulate nuclear meltdowns. The materials are disposed of in concrete lined holes dug into the ground near the nuclear reactors at Sandia, and in vaults and bunkers at the lab's Manzano Storage Facility.

The sites house over 30 tons of enriched uranium-235, a key ingredient used to make nuclear bombs. Other materials include more than 50 grams of plutonium, fission products, mixed plutonium-uranium oxides, spent fuel, and other hazardous materials. Some of the materials are so active they must be stored in water to avoid a nuclear reaction.

NMED was unaware of the materials before being apprised of them by Citizen Action. The agency has initiated an investigation including a review of all documentation related to the materials, including those obtained by Citizen Action.

Citizen Action has also filed for the release of two other documents under FOIA, but the DOE has stalled releasing them on

the ground that they "could have an adverse effect on the health and safety of the public."

Source: "Unregulated Nuclear Waste Discovered at Sandia National Laboratory," *Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety News Update*, 14 December 2005 - 21 December 2005.

DOE PLANT SITE GETS NEW CLEANUP FIRM

In December 2005, the Department of Energy (DOE) announced that Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure and Portgagge Environmental will replace a Bechtel Corporation subsidiary as operator of cleanup work at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Kentucky. The DOE will provide \$191.6 million for the project. Portgagge and Shaw's contract will run through 2009.

Portgagge and Shaw have cleanup experience with the Hanford nuclear reservation and Fernald, Ohio. According to the DOE, it made the management change as a cost-cutting measure, since Portgagge and Shaw is a smaller firm.

Source: Walker, Joe, "DOE Plant Site Gets New Cleanup Firm," 28 December 2005.

Foundation Activities

FOUNDATION LAUNCHES NEW BLOG FOR ITS UC NUCLEAR FREE CAMPAIGN

The Foundation has launched a new blog for its UC Nuclear Free Campaign. The new blog, available on the UC Nuclear Free website at <http://www.ucnuclearfree.org>, was launched in December and creates a much more interactive and responsive approach to involving broad student involvement in the campaign. The blog structure for the site allows the campaign to be more timely and effective in providing up-to-date information and actions. We invite you to visit the site to view and respond to new postings.

The UC Nuclear Free Campaign seeks to inform and mobilize students at the University of California (UC) to end the University's involvement in the design, research, testing and production of nuclear weapons. The UC has managed the nation's nuclear weapons labs for more than 50 years and has overseen the production of every nuclear weapon in the US arsenal. The Foundation feels that there is an inherent moral dilemma in institutions of higher learning being involved in the production of weapons of mass destruction and seeks to end this practice.

FOUNDATION HELPS COORDINATE NATIONAL "UNIVERSITIES OUT OF BED WITH BOMBS" DAY OF ACTION

As part of its focus of broadening university student involvement in nuclear weapons issues, the Foundation helped to organize a national "Universities Out of Bed with Bombs" Day of Action on 30 November 2005, signaling a new level of coordination within the growing nuclear disarmament

movement on university campuses. Students and community organizations in California, Colorado, and Texas conducted rallies, guerrilla theater, and mass call-ins to university administrators on four campuses - CU Boulder, UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley, and UC Santa Barbara - and students at three other campuses - UC Riverside, UC San Diego, and UT Austin - sent e-mails and faxes, and made phone calls to university senior administrators. The Day of Action was a way for students to express opposition to their universities' involvement in the Department of Energy (DOE)-sponsored bid to manage the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

FOUNDATION HOSTS LUNCHEON DIALOGUE ON AMERICAN HIROSHIMA

As part of its Luncheon Dialogue Series, the Foundation hosted David Dionisi in a discussion on his recent book, *American Hiroshima*. The discussion and book revolve around issues of US foreign policy and how these are helping to fuel terrorism and resentment toward the US around the world. Dionisi makes the case for new ways of thinking to solve existing conflicts and reduce reliance on nuclear weapons. To order his book, visit the Foundation's Peace Store at <http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/store/index.htm> and scroll to the bottom of the page. A portion of the proceeds from sales of the book benefit the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

David Dionisi is a former Army intelligence officer and has held significant management positions in Fortune 500 companies. His business and military experiences over the past 24 years are complemented by an extensive background as an international volunteer worker in Central America, Europe and Africa.

FOUNDATION RELEASES NEW COLLECTION OF PEACE QUOTES

The Foundation has published a new collection of peace quotations entitled "Speaking of Peace." The booklet, edited by Foundation president David Krieger, is divided into ten sections, each comprising a different theme of peace. As Krieger notes in his Introduction, "...it seems evident to me that humankind has reached a point in history when we badly need the accumulated wisdom of the past if we are to have a decent future." The insights provided by the many exceptional leaders and thinkers in this collection are at times profoundly moving and can help to guide us on the path to peace. "Speaking of Peace" can be downloaded as a PDF at: <http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/issues/peace-&-war/start/speaking-of-peace.pdf>.

Resources

NEW SATELLITE DATABASE

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) has released the UCS Satellite Database, a searchable list of over 800 active satellites with detailed information about them. The database is free and can be downloaded from the UCS website. It is

in Excel format, allowing users to easily search and sort the data. The UCS Satellite Database is the only free, comprehensive compilation of active satellites in an easy to manipulate, commonly used database format. The Satellite Database is available online at: http://www.ucsusa.org/global_security/space_weapons/satellite_database.html

STATUS OF THE MIXED OXIDE FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY

Status of the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility is a new US Department of Energy report commissioned by the Inspector General to determine if the mixed oxide fuel facility under construction at the Savannah River Site is within budget. The report finds the facility will significantly exceed the amounts reported to Congress in 2002 by \$2.5 billion. The complete report is available online as a PDF document at: <http://www.ig.doe.gov/pdf/ig-0713.pdf>.

Quotable

"In a nuclear war there would be no victors, only victims. The truth of peace requires that all - whether those governments which openly or secretly possess nuclear arms, or those planning to acquire them - agree to change their course by clear and firm decisions, and strive for a progressive and concerted nuclear disarmament. The resources which would be saved could then be employed in projects of development capable of benefiting all their people, especially the poor."

Pope Benedict XVI
From his message for the 2006 World Day of Peace
1 January 2006

"The hard part is: how do we create an environment in which nuclear weapons - like slavery or genocide - are regarded as a taboo and a historical anomaly?"

Mohamed ElBaradei, 2005 Nobel Laureate, Peace
From his Nobel Lecture
10 December 2005

"Many thousands, if not millions, of people in the United States itself are demonstrably sickened, shamed and angered by their government's actions, but as things stand they are not a coherent political force - yet. But the anxiety, uncertainty and fear which we can see growing daily in the United States is unlikely to diminish."

Harold Pinter, 2005 Nobel Laureate, Literature
From his Nobel Lecture
7 December 2005

"The responsibility for devising an exit plan rests primarily not with the war's opponents, but with the president who hastily mounted an invasion without enough troops to secure Iraq's borders and arsenals, without enough armor to protect our forces, without enough allied support and without adequate plans for either a secure occupation or a timely exit."

Theodore C. Sorensen and Arthur Schlesinger Jr., special counsel and special assistant to President John F. Kennedy
From their op-ed "What would JFK have done?"
5 December 2005

"Our whole weapons complex, our whole thinking is still in the Cold War and [Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator], in my opinion, is a prime example of living in the past and not the future. And it's a lack of recognition by a lot of people that the world watches what we do, the world reacts to what we do, and if you're going to be the leader in the world I don't think you can go out and propose a whole new weapon and then tell everybody else, 'Don't you do it.'"

US Rep. David. Hobson (R-Ohio)
Remarks made during an event at the Center for American Progress
14 December 2005

"We are very concerned about the nuclear arsenals of both India and Pakistan and we would love see the world without nuclear weapons at all...The Indian sub-continent would be a lot safer without nuclear weapons."

Ted Turner, founder of Cable News Network (CNN) and member of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Advisory Council
Remarks made while visiting Pakistan in support of disaster relief efforts
18 December 2005

"(Los Alamos is) the only place where you can handle highly toxic materials and make radioactive bomb components. So whoever gets the contract is going to become more manufacturing oriented. There are structural pressures apart from the management issues."

Hugh Gusterson, MIT Anthropologist
Remarks made in response to the DOE's renewed contract with the UC to manage Los Alamos National Laboratory
22 December 2005

Editorial Team

Luke Brothers
David Krieger
Carah Ong
Will Parrish

