

# THE SUNflower

eNewsletter of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

January 2007, No. 114



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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## Perspectives

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### Arthur N.R. Robinson and the Power of One

by David Krieger

I believe in the Power of One, the capacity of a single individual to make an important difference in our world. In many ways, this may seem like an article of faith, rooted in hope. But, in fact, it is more than an

article of faith, for there are indeed individuals whose lives have made a significant difference in improving our world. One such individual is Arthur N.R. Robinson, who has served as both Prime Minister and President of his country. He has had a remarkable and charmed life, and he has altered the course of history by his extraordinary leadership in the creation of an International Criminal Court.

[Read more](#)

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## **The Flawed Execution of Saddam Hussein**

by Richard Falk

Given the harsh brutality of Saddam Hussein's political career I would never have anticipated a certain measure of sympathy for the man at the end of his life. It was not only the unseemliness of executing a Muslim leader in the midst of the Hajj pilgrimages, but the perverse insensitivity of hanging Saddam Hussein at the start of Eid al-Adha for those of Sunni persuasion. The Eid holiday, the holiest of Islamic sacred observances, is supposed to be a solemn moment of sacrifice and forgiveness, as well as the end of the annual Muslim pilgrimage (hajj) at Mecca. The toxic sectarian element was injected by the fact that for Sunni Eid began at dawn on the morning that Saddam Hussein was executed, while for Shiia the four-day holiday does not begin until the following day. It was on this basis that the Iraqi leadership in Baghdad secured the approval of the Shiite clerics in Najaf to go ahead with the execution, after which the Prime Minister, Nuri al-Maliki, signed the final execution order only six hours before the hanging took place.

[Read more](#)

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## **India's Nuclear Disarmament Gets Critical**

by Praful Bidwai

In October 2006, eight years after India and Pakistan crossed the nuclear threshold, the world witnessed yet another breakout, when North Korea exploded an atomic bomb and demanded that it be recognized as a nuclear weapons state. Talks aimed at persuading Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons, in return for security guarantees and economic assistance, collapsed last week.

[Read more](#)

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# **Nuclear Proliferation**

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## **Annual Reports of Nuclear Trafficking Doubled in Past Five Years**

According to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the number of reported incidents involving the trafficking and mishandling of nuclear material worldwide has doubled over the last few years.

On 25 December, Vayl Oxford, nuclear detection director at DHS, said that the number of reported incidents involving the illegal diversion, purchase, sale, transport or storage of nuclear material had increased from 100 incidents in 2000 to 215 incidents in 2005. According to his statement, this is largely attributed to heightened awareness and more extensive screening that has occurred since September 11, 2001.

This report contradicts the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) report released earlier in the year that only 103 incidents had occurred in 2005. The discrepancy in reported incidents is thought to be a product of the way in which incidents are reported to each organization. The IAEA only reports incidents that its members have confirmed and then chosen to acknowledge, while DHS includes suspected incidents determined by a broad network of allied nations.

Some experts are concerned that this increase could mean an increased likelihood that terrorists could obtain weapons-grade nuclear material. According to Jeffrey Lewis, director of the Project on Managing the Atom at Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, "We're only seeing the dysfunctional part of the market — the supplier who's dumb enough to try to sell it to the police."

Jarrold Agen, a Homeland Security spokesman stated, "Only a handful of the known illicit nuclear/radiological trafficking incidents involved weapons-usable nuclear materials. Of the known smuggling incidents to date, the vast majority were profit-motivated scams involving bogus materials."

Among the incidents cited by homeland security was a case in New Jersey where 3.3 grams of weapons-grade highly enriched uranium (HEU) were lost when a lab worker accidentally threw out packaging that contained the uranium. It was later determined that the HEU had ended up in a landfill. The company received a small fine.

Sources: Willing, Richard, "Nuclear traffic doubles since 90's," *USA Today*, 25 December 2006. "Nuclear trafficking reports double in 5 years: Official," *Reuters*, 26 December 2006.

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## **Britain Plans to Replace Nuclear Stockpile**

On 4 December 2006, British Prime Minister Tony Blair presented his plan to upgrade Britain's nuclear arsenal.

The proposed program would create a new fleet of submarines and replace the stockpile of submarine-based nuclear weapons. It would also call for an overall reduction in the stockpile from 200 to 160 warheads. There would be no reduction in the number of nuclear-armed submarines in the British fleet. Blair has said that any reduction in the submarine fleet would have to accompany a new submarine design. The estimated cost of the program is \$40 million.

Citing the threat of rogue regimes and state sponsored terrorism as a motivation for a new arsenal, Blair said, "In these circumstances, it would be unwise and dangerous for Britain alone of any of the nuclear powers to give up its independent nuclear deterrent."

Those opposing the program have said that Iran and North Korea would see Blair's decision as a vindication of their own aspirations. They also say that a new nuclear submarine fleet could cost as much as \$150 billion.

British lawmakers will vote on the proposal in March 2007. Then, following elections in 2009, there will be a vote on how many warheads and submarines are needed.

This program was announced a week before a US Freedom of Information inquiry revealed that the United States has been assisting Britain in the development of its nuclear weapons. According to the recently released document, half of the tests conducted between 1999 and 2001 at US laboratories were to assist with Britain's Trident missile system. Although claims that the weapons were designed in Britain, the tests conducted used the American W-76 submarine based warhead.

A spokesperson for the Federation of American Scientists said, "This FoI document links the British warhead design directly with the nukes carried on US ballistic missile boats, despite the claim by the British government only last week in its white paper on the future of nuclear deterrence that its own warheads were designed and manufactured in the UK."

Sources: "Blair unveils plans for nuclear arsenal," *The Associated Press*, 4 December 2006. Bruce, Ian, "US trident tests cast doubt over UK design claims," *The Herald*, 12 December 2006.

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## Talks with North Korea End without Resolution

On 22 December 2006, six-party talks aimed at convincing North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons program ended without any progress.

The negotiations have been mired in distrust. The United States and North Korea have each blamed the other nation for betraying expectations. US representatives wanted to rehash a 2005 agreement in which North Korea would receive aid and security assurances in exchange for nuclear disarmament, while North Korea wanted to focus on lifting US financial curbs. In September 2005, the US Treasury Department froze certain North Korean bank accounts due to reports of money laundering.

Chief US negotiator Christopher Hill said, “Alas, by the end of the week, it was clear the DPRK...team did not have the instructions that they needed to go forward and to agree to the proposals. They were not prepared to engage on the actual agreement.”

The chief negotiator for North Korea said at a briefing, “The U.S. is now jointly undertaking dialogue and pressure, carrots and sticks. And we are standing against them with dialogue and shields. The shield is to improve our deterrent.”

Source: Buckley, Chris, “North Korea nuclear talks end without deal,” *Reuters*, 22 December 2006.

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## Missile Defense

### Missile Defense Test Fails

On 7 December 2006, a test to demonstrate the Navy’s capacity to intercept two incoming missiles simultaneously failed off the coast of Hawaii.

Due to a computer malfunction aboard the USS Lake Erie, one of the interceptor missiles was grounded while the other was stopped from taking off by officials. This is the second failure in nine tests of the US missile defense system. Due to concerns about North Korea’s long-range missile program, the US Pacific fleet has been installing missile surveillance and tracking technology on many of its ships.

In this most recent drill, two dummy missiles were launched from the Pacific Missile Range facility on Kauai. Both target missiles plummeted into the ocean.

Critics of these missile tests have said that the Missile Defense Agency has been overstating the success of their program and that these tests are often too rudimentary. They do not realistically depict a nuclear missile attack. Additionally, critics of the missile program have said that these kinds of defense systems encourage other nations to enhance their own missile capabilities.

Source: Briscoe, David, “Dual missile test fails off Hawaii,” *Associated Press*, 8 December 2006.

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## US Policy

### Coalition Opposes Bush Administration Plan for New Nuclear Weapons

On 14 December 2006, a coalition consisting of religious leaders, citizen organizations, members of the diplomatic and retired military communities rebuked the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Complex 2030 plan. During a press conference at the National Press Club, the group outlined fundamental flaws and dangers associated with the \$150 billion proposed plan to rebuild the existing nuclear weapons complex and manufacture a new line of nuclear weapons under the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program.

Lieutenant General Robert G. Gard, Jr., Senior Military Fellow at the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation stated, “Undertaking Complex 2030 would communicate to the rest of the world that even the sole conventional military superpower needs new and improved nuclear weapons for its security, thereby encouraging other nations to acquire them to the detriment of international security. What is required instead is to take actions to diminish the role and utility of nuclear weapons in our nation's security and comply with our nation's obligation to make a good faith effort to work towards the elimination of nuclear weapons.”

This press conference occurred the same day as the Department of Energy’s final scoping hearing focused on the Notice of Intent for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Complex 2030. The EIS is supposed to examine potential environmental effects of Complex 2030. The hearings are designed to allow the public to weigh in on what subjects need to be covered in the EIS.

Regarding the hearing, Dr. Mike McCally, Executive Director for Physicians for Social Responsibility said, “The Department of Energy should invest this type of effort not in making new plutonium warheads – that are dangerous to human health, the environment and foreign policy – but in expanding its research and development program in clean, renewable energy research that can benefit all Americans and the rest of the world.”

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## **Bush Signs US-India Nuclear Deal Legislation**

On 18 December 2006, President George Bush signed legislation allowing for a nuclear cooperation between India and the United States.

The piece of legislation carves out an exception for India to existing US nuclear laws. It allows for the transfer of nuclear materials and technology from the United States to India. In exchange, India is required to place 14 of its 22 nuclear reactors under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Critics of the deal have said that it will dramatically expand India’s capacity to build additional nuclear weapons. It could also spark a nuclear arms race between Pakistan and India who have fought three wars since the inception of both nations and there is still a dispute over the Kashmir region. Additionally, India has conducted nuclear tests as recently as 1998 and refuses to sign the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Following the signing of the nuclear deal, the Indian Foreign Minister stated that India still reserves the right to conduct nuclear testing if necessary.

Following his signature of the legislation, Bush released a statement saying that he reserves the right to ignore certain safeguards built into the legislation. The final version of the law included the prohibition of nuclear material to India unless approved by the 45 nation members of the Nuclear Supplier’s Group. The Bush statement said, “A serious question would exist as to whether the provision unconstitutionally delegated legislative power to an international body.”

Before trade can actually begin between the two countries, India must reach an agreement with the IAEA regarding nuclear reactor inspections; the United States must come to an agreement with India regarding the specifics of the trade; and the Nuclear Suppliers group must approve.

Source: Baker, Peter, “Bush signs India nuclear law: Critics say deal to share civilian technology could spark arms race,” *Washington Post*, 19 December 2006.

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## **Resources**

### **Hiroshima and Nagasaki for College Teachers**

Raymond G. Wilson, Ph.D., Emeritus Associate Professor of Illinois Wesleyan University, is offering a one-week workshop on "Hiroshima and Nagasaki for College Teachers." It includes resources and planning for a general education course or units dealing with All Things Nuclear and The Legacy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is being supported by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and friends of the workshop.

[Read more](#)

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### **CRS Report on Nuclear Warheads: The Reliable Replacement Warhead and the Life Extension Program**

This report, by the Congressional Research Service (CRS), focuses on whether to extend the service lives of current nuclear warheads without nuclear testing or to develop, build, and deploy a new generation of nuclear warheads without testing to replace the current stockpile. It compares how these two options respond to Congressional goals, presenting pros, cons, uncertainties, costs, and potential risks and benefits, then discusses issues for Congress. Regarding the third option, the United States has not conducted a nuclear test since 1992, yet has assessed for the past 11 years that current warheads are safe and reliable. The Administration and many in Congress prefer not to resume nuclear testing, so this report does not consider it as a separate option, but discusses it at various points because testing would provide additional data to help maintain or develop nuclear weapons.

[Read the report.](#)

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### **Pit Lifetime Report**

This report by the National Nuclear Security Administration concludes that the plutonium life in nuclear weapons will not affect warhead reliability for decades. The study was conducted by Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories and reviewed by a group of independent scientists known as the Jason Group.

[Read the full report.](#)

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### **The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent**

The UK Government published a 40-page Defense White Paper on "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent." Key themes in the paper include the government's view of why a deterrent remains relevant after the Cold War, why a decision in principle has to be taken now, and what decisions will be taken in future. It announces a reduction in the number of "operationally available warheads" from fewer than 200 to fewer than 160, with a corresponding 20% cut in size of the overall stockpile, and claims that Britain's retention of a deterrent is "fully consistent with our international legal obligations."

[Read the full report.](#)

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## **Foundation Activities**

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### **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future**

On 21 February 2007, Jakob von Uexkull will deliver the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture of Humanity's Future. Von Uexkull's talk will be titled, "Globalization: Values, Responsibility and Global

Justice.” Jakob von Uexkull has been a journalist, writer, lecturer, professional philatelist and Member of the European Parliament. He is also the founder of the World Future Council and the Right Livelihood Award, widely known at the Alternative Nobel Prize. The talk will be held at Corwin Pavilion at the University of California, Santa Barbara. For more information, contact the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation office at (805) 965-3443 or [visit our online public event listing](#).

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## Foundation President to Chair Citizens’ Hearing on Iraq War

David Krieger, Foundation President, will be chairing the panel hearing testimony at the “Citizens’ Hearing on the Legality of U.S. Actions in Iraq” on 20-21 January 2006 in Tacoma, Washington. The hearing will consider issues raised in the case of 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Ehren Watada, who is facing a court martial for refusing to participate in a war he believes to be illegal.

[Learn more](#).

## Quotable

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“I have deep reservations about the ‘Complex 2030’ proposal and specifically about the impact the program would have here in California. Complex 2030 would have a price tag starting at \$150 billion, and the potential for environmental damage is significant.”

Senator Barbara Boxer (CA-Dem), in response to Complex 2030.

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“The question is not how much more sophisticated our plants and weapons can become, but how serious we are as a nation to lead the world with an alternative vision which interprets power differently and promotes peaceful coexistence globally.”

Rev. Dr. John Chryssavgis, Theological Advisor to the Ecumenical Patriarch on environmental issues, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America regarding Complex 2030.

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“The deployment of missile defenses in Europe near Russian borders is an unfriendly move, to put it mildly.”

General Yuri Baluyevsky, head of the Russian military general staff speaking on US missile defense.

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“Nuclear weapons today present tremendous dangers, but also an historic opportunity.”

George Shultz, *et al.*, former secretary of state William Perry, former secretary of defense, Henry Kissinger, former secretary of state, Sam Nunn, former chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, in a public statement calling for a nuclear-free world.

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“In theory, it was a good idea to separate nuclear weapons from the day-to-day White House political considerations that encumber any Cabinet-level agency...but in practice it has only played into the perception that the NNSA and its contractors are not accountable to higher-level authorities, in this case the secretary of energy.”

Phil Coyle, former associate director of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, commenting on recent failures of the US Nuclear Complex.

# Editorial Team

- David Krieger
- Nick Roth
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