

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

Issue #126 - January 2008

The Sunflower is a monthly e-newsletter providing educational information on nuclear weapons abolition and other issues relating to global security. Help us spread the word and forward this to a friend.

Visit www.wagingpeace.org/donate to help sustain this valuable resource by making a donation.

To receive our free monthly e-newsletter subscribe at www.wagingpeace.org/subscribe

- Perspectives
 - Japan's Role in Building Peace in the Nuclear Age by David Krieger
 - Research Shows that War Isn't Caused by Instinct by Bill Wickersham
 - Our Troops Must Leave Iraq by Walter Cronkite and David Krieger
- Nuclear Proliferation
 - Iran Intelligence Report Shows No Nuclear Weapons Program
- Nuclear Insanity
 - Video of Sleeping Guards Shakes Nuclear Industry
- Nuclear Labs
 - Funding for New Nuclear Weapons Scratched
 - UC Pays \$2.8 Million Fine for Poor Nuclear Weapons Management
- Missile Defense
 - Czechs Oppose US Missile Defense Plans
- Nuclear Energy and Waste
 - Environmental Impacts of Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Transportation and Storage
- Resources
 - Is Nuclear Power the Answer to Global Warming?
 - UK's Trident: The Deal Isn't Done
- Foundation Activities
 - NAPF Launches an Appeal to the Next US President
 - Peace Educator Colman McCarthy to Speak at 7th Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture
 - Primary Season Begins; Where Do Candidates Stand on Nuclear Policy?
 - Foundation's Free DVD Spreading Across the World
- Quotes

Perspectives

Japan's Role in Building Peace in the Nuclear Age

by David Krieger

One of the key formative events in my own life, placing me on the path to work for peace and a nuclear weapons-free world, was an early visit at the age of 21 to the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Peace Memorial Museums. At these museums, I learned a lesson that was not part of my education in the United States. In the US, we were taught the perspective of those *above* the bombs. It was a story of scientific and technological triumph, a story of victors with little reference to loss of life and the suffering of the victims. At the Peace Memorial Museums in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it was a human story, a tragedy of massive death and destruction. It was a story told from the perspective of those *beneath* the bombs, and a warning about our common future: *we must eliminate these weapons before they eliminate us.*

To read the full article, visit: www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/12/20_krieger_japan_peace.php.

Research Shows that War Isn't Caused by Instinct

by Bill Wickersham

When writing or speaking on issues of war and peace, it is not unusual for pundits and others to make the case that war is due primarily to a human instinct that causes nation-states to engage in large scale warfare. Underlying that idea is the notion that human beings have pugnacious inner drives that require an outlet for aggressive behavior if they are to achieve their full potential in a highly competitive world in which people have to dominate others to guarantee their own survival. This theory is often linked to the psychologically and physiologically induced fight-flight reaction process, which provides the necessary adrenaline rush when we are aggressively confronted or personally attacked and enables us to stand and fight or, alternatively, to quickly flee the scene. Conventional wisdom often cites this reaction as the underlying cause for the violent, deadly, large group activity called war.

To read the full article, visit: www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/12/27_wickersham_war_instinct.php.

Our Troops Must Leave Iraq

by Walter Cronkite and David Krieger

The American people no longer support the war in Iraq. The war is being carried on by a stubborn president who, like Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon during the Vietnam War, does not want to lose. But from the beginning this has been an ill-considered and poorly prosecuted war that, like the Vietnam War, has diminished respect for America. We believe Mr. Bush would like to drag the war on long enough to hand it off to another president.

To read the full article, visit: www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/12/05_krieger_cronkite_iraq.php.

Nuclear Proliferation

Iran Intelligence Report Shows No Nuclear Weapons Program

On December 3rd, American intelligence agencies released a report stating that Iran had stopped its nuclear weapons program in 2003.

This new National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) contradicts a similar report two years ago that Iran was working towards building a nuclear bomb. It states that Iran most likely wants to keep its options open, but that the agencies “do not know whether it currently intends to develop nuclear weapons.”

This report was released as Iran continues to enrich uranium for what Tehran calls “civilian purposes.” The new NIE states that Iran still has the capacity to produce a nuclear weapon by sometime in the middle of the next decade. However, their program to transform material into a nuclear bomb has been halted since 2003.

This revelation has come after years of aggressive posturing by US officials. It is not known how long US Intelligence services have known that the program has been halted.

The NIE states that Iran's "decisions are guided by a cost-benefit approach rather than a rush to a weapon irrespective of the political, economic and military costs."

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said that the NIE was "directly challenging some of this administration's alarming rhetoric about the threat posed by Iran." He said he hoped the administration "appropriately adjusts its rhetoric and policy," and called for a "a diplomatic surge necessary to effectively address the challenges posed by Iran."

Mazzetti, Mark, "US Says Iran Ended Atomic Arms Work," *New York Times*, December 3, 2007.

Nuclear Insanity

Video of Sleeping Guards Shakes Nuclear Industry

A former nuclear power plant security guard, Kerry Beal, has blown the whistle on fellow Wackenhut security guards at the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania, who were taking regular naps on the job.

After getting no support for his claims from Wackenhut supervisors or the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Beal videotaped the sleeping guards and released the tape to WCBS, a New York City television station.

Exelon, the largest provider of nuclear power in the US and the owner of the Peach Bottom nuclear power plant, fired Wackenhut, which had guarded each of Exelon's 10 nuclear plants.

Wackenhut still guards 21 commercial nuclear sites in the US owned by other firms, as well as the government's Y-12 complex at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where nuclear weapons and materials are stored and maintained.

Mufson, Steven, "Video of Sleeping Guards Shakes Nuclear Industry," *Washington Post*, January 4, 2008.

Nuclear Labs

Funding for New Nuclear Weapons Scratched

Last month, Congress eliminated funding for production of new nuclear bombs from an omnibus spending bill.

The elimination of funding for the controversial Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) represents a major setback for the Bush administration's plan to develop an entirely new generation of nuclear weapons. Instead, the bill requests a "comprehensive nuclear weapons strategy for the 21st century" prepared by the Departments of Defense and Energy and the intelligence community.

"Moving forward on a new nuclear weapon is not something this nation should do without great consideration," said Rep. Peter J. Visclosky (D-IN). "With the end of the Cold War and a new threat from terrorists seeking nuclear materials," Visclosky said, "the US needs a comprehensive nuclear defense strategy, and a revised stockpile plan to guide the transformation and downsizing of the complex...to reflect the new realities of the world."

A spokesperson for the Energy Department's National Nuclear Security Administration, which oversees the US nuclear arsenal, stated, "We will likely have to go down a path of a full-life extension program for nuclear weapons in our stockpile, which in the long run will be more costly, without introducing modern safety and security measures into our weapons."

Pincus, Walter, "Nuclear Warhead Cut from Spending Bill," *Washington Post*, December 18, 2007.

UC Pays \$2.8 Million Fine for Poor Nuclear Weapons Management

The University of California has agreed to a \$2.8 million settlement with the Department of Energy over a 2006 security lapse at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

The settlement is less than the \$3 million penalty that the National Nuclear Security Administration had sought from the University of California, which was the sole manager of LANL until October of last year. The fine was the result of an incident in which 1,000 pages of classified documents and several computer storage devices were found during a drug raid in a former LANL worker's home.

Initially, the University denied responsibility because the former employee worked for a subcontractor. The fine will not come from California state funds, but will be taken from fees earned under the University's contract.

Clark, Heather, "Lab Breach Costs \$2.8 Million," *Associated Press*, December 17, 2007.

Missile Defense

Czechs Oppose US Missile Defense Plans

A new poll shows that 68% of adults in the Czech Republic oppose the construction of a US missile defense base in their country, and 73% believe the issue should be decided by a referendum.

In January 2007, the US issued a formal request to place a radar base in the Czech Republic as well as 10 interceptor missiles in Poland.

Washington claims that the project is intended to protect the US and its European allies from a potential attack by Iran or North Korea. Many believe the missile defense program is actually targeted at Russia.

"Czechs Still Oppose US Missile Shield, Want Vote," *Angus Reid Global Monitor*, December 17, 2007.

Nuclear Energy and Waste

Environmental Impacts of Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Transportation and Storage

At a Department of Energy (DOE) hearing on December 5th, a coalition of environmental and security groups detailed the dangers of the proposed plan to transport nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain, Nevada for storage. Citing serious security, environmental, and public health threats associated with shipping nuclear waste through residential areas across the United States, the groups stated that the Yucca Mountain plan had fundamental flaws and should not go forward.

In 1987, Yucca Mountain, Nevada was selected by Congress as the only site to be studied as a permanent geologic repository for the United States' now approximately 60,000 metric tons of commercial nuclear waste. Due to a protracted battle over security, environmental, scientific and health concerns, the Yucca Mountain Geologic Repository has never opened. After a 20-year battle, the DOE is still struggling against strong public and congressional opposition to the plan.

"Shipping tens of thousands of high-level radioactive waste trucks, trains, and barges through 45 states and the District of Columbia risks severe accidents and terrorist attacks releasing catastrophic amounts of deadly radioactivity in major population centers," said Kevin Kamps of Beyond Nuclear. "These waste transports would represent potential mobile

Chernobyls and dirty bombs on wheels rolling past the homes of millions of Americans.”

“Instead of the flawed Yucca Mountain plan, our member organizations support hardened on-site storage of spent nuclear fuel as described in the *Principles for Safeguarding Nuclear Waste at Reactors*,” said Alfred Meyer, Program Director of the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, representing 35 organizations around the US.

“From a scientific, national security and energy policy perspective, Yucca Mountain is a failure. Rather than continue to sink precious public resources into the failed nuclear waste dump, the Department of Energy should be focused on promoting the technologies proven to work: renewable energy like wind and solar and energy efficiency,” said Tyson Slocum, Director of Public Citizen’s Energy Program.

“Yucca Mountain is a volcano on an aquifer in an earthquake zone,” said Ben Schreiber, Energy Advocate for Environment America. “It is unsound for the permanent storage of nuclear waste.”

“Yucca Mountain is the worst single site that has been evaluated in the U.S. and should be abandoned,” said Dr. Arjun Makhijani, President of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research.

This hearing is the last of a series of public hearings across the country responding to the DOE’s Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on the *Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain* and the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement on a Rail Alignment for the Construction and Operation of a Railroad in Nevada to a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain*. Under the National Environmental Policy Act, the DOE is required to give the public the opportunity to express their concerns or questions through written or oral comments. The public comment period ends January 10, 2008.

Roth, Nickolas, "Groups Testify on Impact of Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Transportation and Storage," www.commondreams.org, December 5, 2007.

Resources

Is Nuclear Power the Answer to Global Warming?

This brief leaflet argues that nuclear power is not the answer to global warming and summarizes 10 arguments against nuclear power. The leaflet can be found at: www.greenhealth.org.uk/NuclearLeaflet.htm.

UK's Trident: The Deal Isn't Done

The Department of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford (England) has released a new report entitled “Trident: The Deal Isn’t Done - Serious Questions Remain Unanswered.” It examines the nature of the decision taken by the UK Government and endorsed by its Parliament to replace Trident, Britain’s nuclear weapons system. The report also looks at future decisions for the Trident replacement program and identifies a number of crucial questions that the Government has not adequately explained or has dismissed. It can be read at: www.brad.ac.uk/acad/bdrc/nuclear/trident/briefing1.html

Foundation Activities

NAPF Launches an Appeal to the Next US President

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has launched an [Appeal](#) to the next President of the United States calling for US leadership for a nuclear weapons-free world. The Appeal will be delivered to the White House on January 20, 2009 when a new President is inaugurated.

You can sign the Appeal online by clicking [here](#).

The Appeal reads in part, “The era of nuclear weapons must be brought to an end...it is our responsibility to eliminate them before they eliminate us.”

It continues, “I call upon the next President of the United States to make a world free of nuclear weapons an urgent priority and to assure US leadership to realize this goal.”

Please sign the Appeal today on our website: www.wagingpeace.org/menu/action/urgent-actions/appeal_to_next_pres/.

You can also download the Appeal to collect printed signatures [here](#).

Peace Educator Colman McCarthy to Speak at 7th Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture

Former *Washington Post* columnist and prominent peace educator Colman McCarthy will present the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation’s 7th Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on February 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Santa Barbara City College’s Fe Bland Forum. Admission is free.

McCarthy's message will be clear: “*Unless we teach our children peace, someone else will teach them violence.*”

The title of his talk is “Teach Peace,” and he is calling for a significant change in our educational system.

McCarthy believes peace studies should be part of the core curriculum. He believes the philosophy of peace, the writings of great peace leaders and non-violent conflict resolution should be part of a very practical, community-oriented approach to education.

If you will be in the Santa Barbara area, we strongly encourage you to attend what promises to be a meaningful and moving event.

Please check our website, www.wagingpeace.org, which will be updated with further information about this event.

Primary Season Begins; Where Do Candidates Stand on Nuclear Policy?

As primary voting gets underway in states across the US, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation’s [presidential candidates feature](#) is taking on added importance.

We have sent out a [survey](#) on US nuclear weapons policy to the major candidates in the Democratic, Green and Republican parties. To date, eight candidates have replied to the survey. You can see their responses on our website: http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/resources/surveys/2008_pres_cand/cand_survey.htm

We have also compiled key quotes from many of the candidates on issues relating to US nuclear weapons policy. The quotes are available on our website: http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/resources/surveys/2008_pres_cand/cand_quotes_page.php

As a 501(c)3 organization, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation does not endorse political parties or candidates. This project is for educational purposes only.

Foundation's Free DVD Spreading Across the World

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's new DVD, *Nuclear Weapons and the Human Future*, has been requested by over 800 individuals and organizations in 110 countries and 40 US states.

The DVD, provided free of charge to all, outlines the Foundation's case against nuclear weapons. It has proven to be a powerful educational tool and call for action.

You can preview the DVD and order your free copy on our website: http://www.wagingpeace.org/nuc_weapons_human_future.php

Quotes

Jackie Cabasso, Executive Director, Western States Legal Foundation

"Imagine a scenario in which tens or hundreds of thousands of people around the country were calling unambiguously for the abolition of nuclear weapons and war and demanding meaningful leadership from the United States. What kind of political space might be opened up, and what kind of results might one expect?"

-- **Jackie Cabasso**, Executive Director, Western States Legal Foundation.

Nancy Reagan

"It was always Ronnie's dream that the world would one day be free of nuclear arms. He felt that as long as such weapons were around, sooner or later they would be used. The result would be catastrophic."

-- Former First Lady **Nancy Reagan**, describing Ronald Reagan's vision of a nuclear weapons-free world in a letter to former Secretary of State George Shultz.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

"I refuse to accept the cynical notion that nation after nation must spiral down a militaristic stairway into the hell of nuclear annihilation."

-- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

Jonathan Schell

"With each year that passes, nuclear weapons provide their possessors with less safety while provoking more danger. The walls dividing the nations of the two-tiered (nuclear) world are crumbling."

-- **Jonathan Schell**, from his new book "The Seventh Decade, The New Shape of Nuclear Danger."

Editorial Team

David Krieger

Nickolas Roth

Vicki Stevenson

Rick Wayman

© Nuclear Age Peace Foundation 1998 - 2008