

# THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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## Perspectives

### Make US Leadership to Abolish Nuclear Weapons a Top Ten Idea for Change in America

by David Krieger

We have a chance to really make a difference in raising the profile of nuclear weapons abolition, and we need your help.

The website Change.org is holding a contest to choose the ten best ideas for change in America. Out of more than 7,500 proposals and more than 250,000 votes, our idea for "[US Leadership to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Globally](#)" has made it to the final round with some 90 other ideas. People from throughout America and around the world will be voting in the final round to choose the top ten ideas from January 5th until 5:00 p.m. EST on January 15th.

To read more, visit: [http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/01/06\\_krieger\\_change\\_america.php](http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/01/06_krieger_change_america.php).

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## Let's Commit to a Nuclear-Free World

by Sen. Dianne Feinstein

When Barack Obama becomes America's 44th president on Jan. 20, he should embrace the vision of a predecessor who declared: "We seek the total elimination one day of nuclear weapons from the face of the Earth."

That president was Ronald Reagan, and he expressed this ambitious vision in his second inaugural address on Jan. 21, 1985. It was a remarkable statement from a president who had deployed tactical nuclear missiles in Europe to counter the Soviet Union's fearsome SS-20 missile fleet.

To read more, visit: [http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/01/05\\_feinstein\\_lets\\_commit.php](http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/01/05_feinstein_lets_commit.php).

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## Making Peace a Priority

by David Krieger

The election of Barack Obama has brought a new spirit of hope to the United States and the world. We now have the opportunity to chart a new course for US foreign policy and provide leadership to restore peace under international law, promote justice and reestablish America's credibility in the world. Our time demands such leadership from the United States, which could be demonstrated by taking the following ten steps:

To read more, visit [http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/12/23\\_krieger\\_peace\\_priority.php](http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/12/23_krieger_peace_priority.php).

# Nuclear Proliferation

## US-Russia START I Treaty Expires This Year

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) between the United States and Russia is set to expire in December 2009. Negotiations to renew or replace the treaty have stalled because of a disagreement between the two parties on whether a new treaty should include limits on long-range missiles and bombers. Russia favors including such limitations, while the US wants a new treaty to cover only warheads.

The Bush administration has favored a more limited treaty in order to allow development of long-range missiles that could carry non-nuclear warheads as part of its "global strike" plan.

The START treaty was signed by George H.W. Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev in 1991. The treaty set limits on the number of intercontinental missiles, submarine-launched missiles and heavy bombers, and established an extensive verification regime to monitor cuts in delivery vehicles and warheads.

If the START treaty is allowed to expire without a sufficient replacement, there will be no way to monitor progress toward the Moscow Treaty agreement signed in 2002, which calls for both sides to reduce their active strategic stockpile to 1,700-2,200 warheads by 2012.

Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN) called on the Obama administration to immediately commence negotiations with Russia.

Pan, Phillip, "Russia Says US Seeks Weaker Treaty," *Washington Post*, December 20, 2008.

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## Japan Secretly Shipped Highly-Enriched Uranium to US

Japan secretly shipped over 500 kilograms of highly-enriched uranium (HEU), enough to make 20 nuclear weapons, to the United States between 1996 and 2008.

The research reactors where the HEU was used were constructed in the 1960s as part of President Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" program. The program exported research reactors, HEU fuel and related technologies to allied countries around the world.

The massive quantities of HEU around the world posed a significant proliferation risk, and recently the Global Threat Reduction Initiative has sought to bring the HEU back to the United States.

"Japan Sent Uranium to US In Secret," *Kyodo News*, December 28, 2008.

## Nuclear Insanity

### Japan Asked US to Use Nuclear Weapons Against China

In 1965, Japan's prime minister Eisaku Sato asked US Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara to use nuclear weapons against China if a war between Japan and China broke out.

The Japanese constitution, written after World War II, prohibits the use of force in international conflicts. Prime Minister Sato also told McNamara that Japan had the technical capability to build nuclear weapons, but chose not to do so.

Two years after making his request to Secretary McNamara, Sato introduced Japan's "Three Non-Nuclear Principles," which still guide the country's nuclear policy. The principles state that Japan will not own or make nuclear weapons, nor permit them in Japanese territory.

"Japan Wanted US to Use Nukes Against China in '65," *Associated Press*, December 22, 2008.

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## Nuclear Disaster Alerts to be Sent by Text Message

Residents of Plymouth, England will rely on a SMS text message-based system to announce nuclear-related crises. The new system will replace a warning siren.

The text messages will alert 20,000 families living within 2 km of the city's extensive nuclear facilities to an imminent disaster or toxic leak.

Swain, Mike, "Nuclear Disaster Alerts to be Sent by Text," *Daily Mirror*, December 23, 2008.

## Nuclear Energy and Waste

### Nuclear Energy Significantly More Expensive Than Renewables

A new study puts the generation costs for power from new nuclear plants at 25 to 30 cents per kilowatt-hour—triple current

US electricity rates.

This is far higher than the cost of a variety of carbon-free renewable power sources available today, and 10 times the cost of energy efficiency.

The new study, "[Business Risks and Costs of New Nuclear Power](#)," is one of the most detailed cost analyses publicly available on the current generation of nuclear power plants being considered in this country. It is by a leading expert in power plant costs, Craig A. Severance.

Romm, Joseph, "The Staggering Cost of New Nuclear Power," Center for American Progress, January 5, 2009.

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## Nuclear Waste Poses Arctic Threat

For nearly 50 years, the Russian Northern Fleet has operated two-thirds of the Russian Navy's nuclear-powered vessels. Much of the spent fuel from these vessels has been dumped directly into the Barents and Kara seas. The remainder was placed in inadequate storage containers, which are now deteriorating and posing major safety risks in the Murmansk region.

According to nuclear waste experts, if the waste is left where it is, it is guaranteed that an environmental catastrophe will occur. Moving the waste to a more secure long-term storage facility will be complicated and will cost at least \$4 billion. The cost will be shared by Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.

Madslie, Jorn, "Nuclear Waste Poses Arctic Threat," *BBC News*, December 9, 2008.

## Resources

### Strategic Posture Commission Issues Interim Report

The Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States has issued its interim report. The Commission will develop recommendations for the nuclear posture of the United States over the coming years.

In the interim report, the Commission took no position on the Bush administration's effort to produce a new nuclear warhead under the now-deferred Reliable Replacement Warhead program. Instead, the commission said, its final report will "define the most efficient and effective way to maintain a credible, safe, secure and reliable deterrent for the long term."

You can read the interim report online at [http://www.usip.org/strategic\\_posture/sprc\\_interim\\_report.html](http://www.usip.org/strategic_posture/sprc_interim_report.html).

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### Can the NPT Regime Be Fixed?

*Dialogue on Globalization* has released a publication titled "Can the NPT Regime Be Fixed or Should It Be Abandoned?"

The authors write, "Tackling the problem of nuclear weapons is central to the UN's core agenda. Yet, for better or worse, the world body has not in fact been the central forum in which nuclear milestones have been reached."

The paper, authored by Ramesh Thakur, Jane Boulden and Thomas G. Weiss, is published by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. [Click here](#) to download a copy of the paper (32 pages).

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### US Weapons at War 2008

The United States is the world's leading arms exporting nation, accounting for over 45% of all weapons transferred globally

in 2007.

The United States is also by far the world's largest provider of security assistance, a substantial portion of which involves cash support, subsidized weapons transfers, and military training. During the Bush administration alone, Washington provided over \$110 billion in security assistance to scores of countries in over a dozen separate programs. Much of this aid has been provided to countries viewed as actual or potential partners in waging the "global war on terrorism," with little attention paid to human rights, nonproliferation, or arms control concerns.

To read the full report, visit: [http://www.newamerica.net/publications/policy/u\\_s\\_weapons\\_war\\_2008\\_0](http://www.newamerica.net/publications/policy/u_s_weapons_war_2008_0).

## Foundation Activities

### Vote for Nuclear Disarmament on Change.org

The popular online social networking site change.org is hosting a competition to come up with the top 10 ideas for change in America.

NAPF President David Krieger introduced an idea titled "US Leadership to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Globally." The idea surpassed over 7,000 others to make it into the final round of voting. It is the only idea in the final round related to nuclear disarmament.

Anyone in the world can vote - it is not limited to US citizens. To vote, visit [http://www.change.org/ideas/view/us\\_leadership\\_to\\_abolish\\_nuclear\\_weapons\\_globally](http://www.change.org/ideas/view/us_leadership_to_abolish_nuclear_weapons_globally). The deadline for voting is January 15, 2009. The top 10 ideas will be presented to President Obama and will be promoted throughout the year by change.org, MySpace and others.

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### David Krieger to Speak on

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation President David Krieger will participate in a conference at the Center on Terrorism at John Jay College in New York City on January 16. The theme of the conference is "Nuclear Weapons After Bush: Prospects for Abolition." Richard Falk, Chairman of the NAPF Board, will also speak at the conference.

## Quotes

"He [the President of the United States] could launch the kind of devastating attack the world has never seen. He doesn't have to check with anybody. He doesn't have to call the Congress. He doesn't have to check with the courts. He has that authority because of the nature of the world we live in."

-- US Vice President **Dick Cheney**

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"The US [nuclear] deterrent must be both visible and credible, not only to our possible adversaries, but to our allies as well."

-- From the interim report of the **Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States**

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"No rational solution to the problem of an ever-increasing budget deficit can be imagined that does not include significant reductions in the rate of military spending."

-- Representative **Barney Frank** (D-MA)

## Editorial Team

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