

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

A Silly Dream?

by David Krieger

A note recently came to the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation that said: “Are you folks out of your minds? The nuclear genie is out of the bottle and isn’t going back in. Shortly even non-state actors will have nukes! Quit wasting your time on this silly dream.”

There are dreams of justice and equality that must seem silly to many. There are dreams of alleviating poverty and hunger, and dreams of educational opportunity for all children. There are even dreams of eliminating war. It is not silly to fight for a better future, and certainly not silly to fight to assure the future itself.

To read more, [click here](#).

Beyond START

by Alice Slater

The Obama Administration will pay a heavy price for ratification of the modest New START treaty. The President originally promised the weapons labs \$80 billion over ten years for building three new bomb factories in Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, and Kansas City to modernize our nuclear arsenals as well as an additional \$100 billion for new delivery systems—missiles, bombers, and submarines.

If the US persists in developing its nuclear infrastructure with new bomb factories while threatening Russia with proliferating missiles, it’s unlikely that this modest New START will help us down the path to peace.

To read more, [click here](#).

Nuclear Disarmament

Disarm Now Plowshares Have Their Day in Court

Five individuals have been found guilty of a number of charges related to their November 2009 protest at the Kitsap-Bangor Naval Base in Washington state. Anne Montgomery, Bill Bischel, Susan Crane, Lynne Greenwald and Steve Kelly were part of a Plowshares action to challenge US reliance on nuclear weapons and the storage of nuclear weapons at the naval base.

On the first day of the trial, the prosecution objected to the defendants' reference to international law as a reason for their actions. In 1996, the International Court of Justice ruled that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is generally illegal.

Wayman, Rick, “Guilty of Trying to Uphold International Law,” [Waging Peace Today](#), December 13, 2010.

Canadian Parliament Adopts Nuclear Weapons Convention Resolution

The Canadian House of Commons gave unanimous consent to a motion endorsing the United Nations Secretary-General’s Five Point Plan for nuclear disarmament and called upon the Government of Canada to engage in negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention as proposed by the UN Secretary-General.

The motion also endorsed a statement signed by over 500 members of the Order of Canada (the highest award in Canada) expressing an urgent need for action to abolish nuclear weapons, calling on all States to

commence negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, and urging Canada to take leadership.

Ware, Alyn, "Canadian Parliament adopts resolution supporting a Nuclear Weapons Convention," *Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament*, December 7, 2010.

Nuclear Proliferation

Rudd Calls for Inspection of Israeli Nuclear Facilities

Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd called on Israel to allow international inspectors into its nuclear facilities at Dimona during a visit to the country in December. While Israel officially refuses to acknowledge possessing nuclear weapons, many experts believe that Israel has approximately 200 nuclear weapons.

Rudd said, "Our view has been consistent for a long period of time, and that is that all states in the region should adhere to the NPT, and that includes Israel."

Lyons, John, "Rudd Calls for Inspections of Israel's Nuclear Facility," *The Australian*, December 14, 2010.

Nuclear Insanity

Obama Administration Explains How to Survive a Nuclear Blast

A new 130-page report entitled "Planning Guidance for Response to a Nuclear Detonation" has been issued by a US government committee with representatives from many different agencies. The report is designed to explain emergency response procedures in the case of a terrorist exploding a 10-kiloton nuclear weapon in a major American city. The report implies that a nuclear blast is survivable if a person takes "limited protective measures" within five seconds of the blast.

The emergency response plan does not seem to take into serious account the widespread fires, downed power lines, high radioactive fallout rate, disabled communications infrastructure and general chaos that would be occurring during any rescue operation.

Chernus, Ira, "Government Report: Rich White Men Are Most Likely to Survive Nuclear Blast," *Truthout*, December 27, 2010.

Broad, William, "New Advice for Nuclear Strike - Dont Flee, Get Inside," *The New York Times*, December 15, 2010.

Ukraine to Open Chernobyl to Tourists in 2011

Beginning in 2011, Ukraine plans to allow visitors into the sealed zone around the Chernobyl nuclear reactor, which melted down on April 26, 1986. The disaster is thought to have caused nearly one million deaths and has caused radioactive contamination across much of Europe.

The country also plans to complete a new containment dome by 2015 to cover the existing iron and concrete structure that has been leaking radiation, cracking and threatening to collapse.

"Ukraine to Open Chernobyl Area to Tourists in 2011," *Associated Press*, December 13, 2010.

Does 10 Million Dead Equal Deterrence?

A top-secret UK Ministry of Defence memo written in 1978 has revealed that it would have to be prepared “to finish what we start” by killing up to 10 million Soviets. The memo was written by Michael Quinlan, a senior nuclear expert in the civil service, in response to an internal paper by the Labour Party’s foreign Secretary David Owen, who is now a member of the House of Lords. Owen argued that one million Soviet dead would be “more than adequate.”

Quinlan insisted that the Soviet Union’s “threshold of horror” was higher because it had lost over 20 million people in World War II.

John Ainslie, coordinator of the Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, pointed out that the 120 nuclear warheads that the UK government currently wants to keep operational are capable of killing several million people. Ainslie said, “These documents give a glimpse into the world of Dr. Strangelove, where mathematicians calculate precisely how many people Britain must be able to incinerate in a nuclear war.”

Edwards, Rob, “Secret Files from 70s Reveal Trident Strike Needed to Kill 10m Russians,” *The Guardian*, December 26, 2010.

Costs of Proposed New US Uranium and Plutonium Plants Skyrocket

US nuclear weapons officials have admitted that projected costs for a new plutonium pit facility in New Mexico and a new uranium processing facility in Tennessee have risen dramatically.

The Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement facility at Los Alamos (New Mexico) was originally projected in 2007 to cost \$800 million and was anticipated to be functioning by 2014. It is now estimated that it will cost up to \$6 billion and will be completed in 2023. The facility would significantly increase US capacity to build new nuclear weapons.

The Uranium Processing Facility at Y-12 (Tennessee) is also facing major cost overruns. The original estimate of \$600 million has been raised to between \$4.2 billion and \$6.5 billion.

Critics of the two facilities argue that in addition to the cost overruns, the facilities are unnecessary and create real environmental, security and proliferation risks.

“Los Alamos Plutonium Lab Costs Rise,” *Global Security Newswire*, December 9, 2010.

Missile Defense

US Missile Defense Test Fails Again

After delaying the test for a day due to clouds and fog, the US military’s test of its missile defense system failed on December 15. The test was intended to shoot down an incoming missile over the Pacific Ocean. It was the second failure in a row for the missile defense system managed by Boeing.

Officials with the Missile Defense Agency promised an extensive investigation to determine what went wrong. The US has spent over \$100 billion on a missile defense system that shows no signs of working under real-world conditions.

Wolf, Jim, “US Missile Defense Test Fails Over Pacific,” *Reuters*, December 15, 2010.

Military-Industrial Complex

Congress Passes \$725 Billion Pentagon Budget for 2011

On December 22, both houses of Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act of 2011, which allocates \$725 billion to the Pentagon. This is the largest war budget (adjusted for inflation) since 1945, the final year of World War II. All 100 Senators voted to pass the bill, and it was passed by voice vote in the House.

This staggeringly high figure represents \$2,354 for every single US citizen. It is likely that there will be supplemental requests in 2011 in the tens of billions of dollars to continue paying for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

If one includes all military-related expenditures, such as nuclear weapons activities at the Department of Energy, care of military veterans and interest on debt to finance past wars, total military expenditures will exceed \$1 trillion in 2011.

Rozoff, Rick, "Pentagon's Christmas Present: Largest Military Budget Since World War II," *Op-Ed News*, December 23, 2010.

War and Peace

Tensions Run High Between North and South Korea

In November, North Korea shelled Yeonpyeong Island, killing four people, in response to provocative military drills by South Korea. More recently, North Korea vowed not to respond to further military exercises on the island that took place in late December. The December drill was South Korea's largest-ever live fire exercise.

Klug, Foster and Ahn Young-joon, "South Korean Troops Prepare for Possible North Korean Attack," *Associated Press*, December 21, 2010.

Resources

New Year Reading: Two Excellent Books on Nuclear Disarmament

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation recommends two outstanding books published in 2010 on nuclear weapons issues.

The first book, [*Apocalypse Never*](#) by Tad Daley, explores the dangers of the Nuclear Age. Daley argues that the only way to prevent future nuclear catastrophe is to eliminate the weapons and provides a roadmap to achieve this goal. While it is a subject that many Americans prefer to avoid or deny, the threats of nuclear devastation are all too real. To read NAPF President David Krieger's full review of *Apocalypse Never*, [click here](#).

The second book, [*The Bomb*](#) by Howard Zinn, offers Zinn's deep personal reflections and political analysis of World War II events, their consequences, and the profound influence they had in transforming him from an order-taking combat soldier to one of our greatest anti-war historians. This book was finalized just prior to Zinn's passing in January 2010, and was published on the 65th anniversary of the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

Nine Proposals for Cutting the Pentagon Budget

Lacie Olson of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation has compiled a list of nine major proposals for cutting the federal deficit that involve cuts to the defense budget. The proposals come from members of Congress, think tanks and other leading voices in Washington, DC.

To read Olson's report, [click here](#).

Wikileaks and Nuclear Weapons

Reaching Critical Will, a project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, has compiled a list of nuclear weapon-related articles that have been released by Wikileaks.

Articles cover topics such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty, nuclear disarmament, nuclear cooperation with India, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, missile defense and more.

To see Reaching Critical Will's list, [click here](#).

Foundation Activities

God's Tears: Reflections on Hiroshima and Nagasaki

NAPF President David Krieger has written a new book of poetry entitled *God's Tears: Reflections on the Atomic Bombs Dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki*. The book, published by Coal Sack Publishing in Tokyo, has been translated into Japanese and is available in a bilingual edition.

Commenting on the book, Hiroshima Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba said, "In this book, David Krieger has combined reason, passion and aesthetic skill to convey this fundamental message of the *hibakusha*. In a few carefully crafted, poetic pages, he presents facts and feelings that reaffirm a profound truth: the only constructive mission of nuclear weapons lies in their total abolition."

[Click here](#) to order the book from the NAPF Peace Store for \$20 plus shipping.

Two New Peace Resources from NAPF

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation recently released two important peace compilations: *Speaking of Peace*, a collection of peace quotes, and *War Poetry: Memory, Myth and Meaning*, a collection of anti-war poetry.

Speaking of Peace is an update to the original 2006 edition. It is divided into ten sections of quotes. Each has wisdom that can contribute to the possibility of creating and maintaining peace. In this book, you will find succinct and sometimes profoundly moving insights by many exceptional men and women, insights that can help guide us on the path to peace. [Click here](#) to download *Speaking of Peace*.

War Poetry: Memory, Myth and Meaning is a collection of anti-war poetry from many different wars. In the introduction to the book, David Krieger writes, "The task of a poet is to find the truth and, if possible, to express it with aesthetic grace. But truth comes first. This means that poets have a major responsibility to cut through surface layers of understanding and dig for deeper truths. This is particularly so when poets choose to focus on war, a subject matter that is often chaotic, confused and clouded with myth and

misunderstanding. May these poems awaken your imagination to the possibility of a world without war, to a new reality of a world at peace.” [Click here](#) to download *War Poetry*.

American Unity Project Coming Soon

Paul Chappell, Director of the Foundation’s Peace Leadership Program, is working with a talented California-based filmmaker to produce an internet-based documentary series called *The American Unity Project*. The documentary will follow Chappell’s travels around the United States teaching peace leadership techniques and his quest to establish a Peace Leadership Academy that will train people in waging peace. It seeks to increase awareness of how we can solve national and global problems through discovering our shared humanity and uniting people to take action for peace.

[Click here](#) to watch a clip of the first episode of *The American Unity Project*. The first full episode is due out later this month and will be available to view at www.beapeaceleader.org.

Screening of Countdown to Zero in Santa Barbara

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will host a public screening of the documentary *Countdown to Zero* on January 27 at 7:00 pm at the Faulkner Gallery, 40 E. Anapamu Street in Santa Barbara. The documentary, from the producers of *An Inconvenient Truth*, examines at the dangers of nuclear weapons and highlights the urgent need for nuclear disarmament.

The Foundation also has a limited number of DVD copies of *Countdown to Zero* available for free for members who would like to host a private screening at their home. For more information, contact Rick Wayman, NAPF Director of Programs, at (805) 965-3443.

Quotes

“We have seen that dialogue with even the most recalcitrant governments is possible. Yet dialogue can work only if the United States abandons the hypocritical position of telling others what they must do while keeping its own options open.”

-- Former Soviet President **Mikhail Gorbachev** in a New York Times op-ed, in which he encouraged the US Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty as a next step toward nuclear disarmament.

“New START has been described as a modest agreement, but the impact of Senate ratification is far from modest. The impact will echo around the world, signaling to allies and adversaries alike that the United States remains determined to work with Russia and responsible partners to reduce the threat from nuclear weapons worldwide.”

-- Sen. **John Kerry** (D-MA), in a statement following the ratification of the New START treaty by the US Senate.

“I will say flatly, I ran that place for five years and I’d have killed for [this] budget.”

-- **Linton Brooks**, former head of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) during the George W. Bush administration, referring to the current NNSA budget for nuclear weapons work.

Editorial Team

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