

THE SUNflower

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Perspective

SLEADING SCIENTISTS, ACADEMICS SPEAK OUT AGAINST WAR WITH IRAQ

The International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility (INES), meeting in Paris on February 1st, issued an Appeal to Resist War that called for scientists, engineers and academics from throughout the world to oppose a US-led war against Iraq. They further called for all universities to hold teach-ins, hearings and other meetings to consider the dangerous consequences of such a war. Finally, INES called upon universities in countries supporting the war to go on strike if a war began and to announce their intention to strike in advance.

INES is a non-governmental organization affiliated with the United Nations and UNESCO, which works for peace, sustainability and the constructive uses of science and technology. INES can be found on the web at www.inesglobal.org. The complete text of the INES Appeal is as follows:

"We oppose a US-led war against Iraq and support all non-violent opposition to the planned war. We appeal to scientists, engineers and academics throughout the world to work in solidarity to prevent this war in both their personal and professional capacities.

"We call for teach-ins, hearings and other meetings to take place at all universities. These should consider the consequences of the planned war on the people of Iraq; the stability of the Middle East; the Future of the United Nations and international law; international relations and the dialogue among cultures; the global economy and the environment; and the development, proliferation and use of weapons of mass destruction.

"We call upon universities throughout the world to engage in all forms of peaceful protest. We call upon universities in those countries supporting the war to go on strike should a war begin and to announce their intention to do so in advance."

In another action opposing war against Iraq, 41 American Nobel Laureates issued a statement opposing a preventive war against Iraq. Even in victory, they stated, the consequences would undermine rather than protect US security and standing in the world. The statement is as follows:

"The undersigned oppose a preventive war against Iraq without broad international support. Military operations against Iraq may indeed lead to a relatively swift victory in the short term. But war is characterized by surprise, human loss and unintended consequences. Even with a victory, we believe that the medical, economic, environmental, moral, spiritual, political and legal consequences of an American preventive attack on Iraq would undermine, not protect, U.S. security and standing in the world."

For more information, including a list of signers, see: www.nobellaureatesoniraq.org

More than 1,000 historians from more than forty colleges have formed a new national network of "Historians Against the War," and have issued the following statement:

"We historians call for a halt to the march towards war against Iraq. We are deeply concerned about the needless destruction of human life, the undermining of constitutional government in the U.S., the egregious curtailment of civil liberties and human rights at home and abroad, and the obstruction of world peace for the indefinite future."

For further information go to: <http://www.hnn.us/articles/1199.html>

Take Action

HANDS ACROSS THE GLOBE: A NEW PEACE INITIATIVE

A war against Iraq will cost many innocent lives, Iraqi and American. Here is a simple action plan to help stop this war:

1. Make handprints with your children and write a message of peace.
2. Send one handprint to George Bush, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20500, Fax: 202-456-2461.
3. Send the other handprint to Saddam Hussein, c/o Ambassador Mohammed Aldouri, Mission of Iraq to the United Nations, 14 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10021, Fax: 212 772-1794.
4. Pass this message on.

For more information and a printable flyer on Hands Across the Globe, please see our website at:

http://www.wagingpeace.org/new/youtharea/hands_across_the_globe.htm

December weapons declaration to the UN. On 19 January Iraqi officials told Blix that they had found four more empty chemical warheads. Blix said he welcomed efforts by Iraq to search for the munitions and to admit their existence, but questioned whether there may be other such undeclared weapons.

UN Security Council members Russia, France, Syria, Germany and China, as well as UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, have said the inspections were working and should be given more time. Germany and France, key allies of the United States, have issued a joint statement voicing strong opposition to immediate war on Iraq. Also, recent polls show that American public support for unilateral action against Iraq is waning.

Sources: New York Times, 31 January 2003; Reuters, 18 January 2003; Washington Post, 20 & 22 January 2003; Wall Street Journal, 23 January 2003; Associated Press, 17 January 2003

U.S.-RUSSIAN DISARMAMENT AND NONPROLIFERATION PROGRAMS GET A BOOST

President Bush signed two waivers in early January that release up to \$466 million dollars to help destroy and secure Russia's Cold War arsenal of weapons of mass destruction. The funding had been authorized by Congress, but had been held up for over a year due to strict restrictions attached to the Congressional authorization. Due to legislation recently passed by Congress, the President can now wave those restrictions. A significant portion of the funding will go towards destroying Russia's large chemical weapons arsenal, helping Russia to come into compliance with its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention of 1993. On 29 January, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham stated that the Bush Administration will also propose a 30 percent increase to \$1.3 billion next year for programs aimed at keeping nuclear materials out of the hands of terrorists, much of which will go towards helping Russia secure its nuclear material.

Under a related U.S.-Russian non-proliferation program, a new training center that will teach software programming to former Soviet nuclear weapons researchers opened 12 January in Moscow. The center was opened under the Initiatives for Proliferation Prevention program, a program set up by the U.S. Energy Department's National Nuclear Security Administration.

There are still fears that the cooperative security funding will not be adequate to secure all Russian nuclear material, particularly with regard to submarine dismantlement, an area where Russia expects to lose significant U.S. funding after this year.

Sources: USA Today, 15 January 14, 2003; Los Angeles Times, 15 January 2003; Moscow Times, 13 January 2003; Boston Globe, 13 January 2003; Associated Press, 29 January 2003

Disarmament

INSPECTORS SUBMIT IRAQ REPORT, SECURITY COUNCIL TO CONVENE

On 27 January UN weapons inspector chief Hans Blix submitted a largely negative report on Iraqi compliance with UN disarmament resolutions, citing ways in which Iraq was still failing to fully cooperate with inspectors. Later Blix did, however, challenge many of the Bush administration's grand claims of Iraqi violations, including the idea that military action was fast becoming the only solution. President Bush announced in his State of the Union Address on 28 January that the administration plans to request the Security Council to convene on 5 February to reconsider Iraqi compliance and the need for the use of force in Iraq. Bush also stated that U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell will provide the Council with additional U.S. intelligence information on Iraqi violations.

On 16 January, UN inspectors visiting an army munitions depot southwest of Baghdad discovered a dozen empty warheads, which, according to Blix, were "clearly designed to hold chemical weapons" and were not listed in Iraq's

NORTH KOREA SAYS NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS PLANS, WARY U.S. SEEKS DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION

Shin Yong Sung, vice minister of North Korea Power and Coal Industries, has reportedly stated that its recently reactivated graphite nuclear reactor will start generating electricity "within weeks" and that the electricity would be used in the North's Pyongan provinces that surround Pyongyang. On 22 January, North Korean officials did assure South Korea that the North was not planning to use its facilities to make nuclear weapons, though it would not commit to halting its nuclear weapons program. However, U.S. officials announced on 30 January that American spy satellites over North Korea have detected what appear to be trucks moving the country's stockpile of 8,000 nuclear spent fuel rods out of storage, prompting fears that North Korea is indeed preparing to produce nuclear weapons.

The United States has been pushing the UN Security Council to take up the issue of North Korea's nuclear proliferation activities, particularly North Korea's recent withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty regime. The U.S. has recently signaled that it will not seek sanctions against North Korea and has given some indications that it may be willing to provide North Korea with a written security guarantee.

Sources: Associate Press, 22 January 2003; Dallas Morning News, 22 January 2003, New York Times, 31 & 23 January 2003; Washington Post, 23 January 2003; Washington Times, 22 January 2003

U.S. PURSUES NEW NUCLEAR BUNKER BUSTER PROGRAM

The Pentagon has reportedly launched a fast-track program to develop computers that would help decide when nuclear weapons might be used to destroy deep underground bunkers, according to a recent Los Angeles Times article.

The \$1.26-billion program, reportedly described in unpublished Pentagon documents, seeks to design an array of high-speed computers that could take in structural and other data on a prospective underground target, calculate the amount of force needed to destroy it, then determine whether a Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, or bunker buster, would be required. The system would also evaluate collateral damage including nuclear fallout, civilian casualties and the possible dispersal of toxic agents from within the bunker.

Source: Los Angeles 3 February 2003

INDIA SETS UP NUCLEAR COMMAND AND QUESTIONS NO-FIRST-USE POLICY

India announced on 5 January that it had set up a nuclear command system and that nuclear retaliatory attacks could be authorized only by the civilian political leadership through

the new Nuclear Command Authority, headed by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee. Air Marshal T. M. Asthana has been appointed to head the country's first nuclear forces command, a subsection of the Command Authority. These recent moves by the Indian government come at a time when nuclear rivals India and Pakistan have been exchanging hostile words concerning the prospect of nuclear war. Both countries have subsequently resumed shelling along the disputed region of Kashmir.

India's National Security Advisory Board has recently asked the government to review its "no-first-use" of nuclear weapons policy, though the board supported the doctrine two year ago.

Source: CNN.com, 8 January 2003; Rediff.com, 9 January 2003; Reuters, 10 January 2003; Boston Globe 12 January 2003; Baltimore Sun, 28 January 2003

FEARS OVER BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM STOKED, THEN TEMPERED

In early January, Roberto Amaral, Brazil's newly appointed minister of science and technology, made comments regarding Brazil's need to continue research in the field of fission, implying that Brazil might be interested in pursuing nuclear weapons capability. Though the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology later clarified that Brazil had no intention of pursuing nuclear technology for non-peaceful purposes, many were concerned by the remarks. Amaral's remarks follow election rumors suggesting that current President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva favored reinvigorating Brazil's nuclear weapons program, which Brazil abandoned upon entry into the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The rumors were not substantiated.

Sources: Pravda.RU, 9 January 2003; Associated Press, 9 January 2003 ; New York Times, 9 January 2003

Missiles & Missile Defense

U.S. MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY SCALES BACK TESTS

The U.S. Missile Defense Agency is planning to skip the next two scheduled flight tests of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense interceptor and will not attempt any test interceptions until this autumn, according to agency officials. The decision to scale back testing follows an announcement last month by President George W. Bush ordering missile defense deployment by 2004, and a test failure on 11 December when an interceptor rocket failed to separate from its booster rocket. According to the Missile Defense Agency, they are waiting for a newly designed rocket booster being developed by Boeing in conjunction with Lockheed Martin and Orbital Sciences. Under the new schedule, the agency will likely conduct up to five intercept tests before the system is scheduled for deployment.

Sources: Philadelphia Inquirer, 9 January 2003; Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 8 January 2003; Global Security Newswire, 7 January 2003

INDIA TESTS AGNI MISSILE AND TALKS WITH U.S. ON MISSILE DEFENSE

On 9 January India successfully test-fired the short range variant of the nuclear-capable Agni ballistic missile. The surface-to-surface missile, with a range of 370 to 500 miles, was test-fired from a mobile launcher at the coastal testing range at Chandipur-on-sea in Orissa. U.S. State Department officials called the test disappointing, as it comes at a time of increasing tensions between India and nuclear rival Pakistan. Also, India is reportedly developing a new nuclear-capable missile, the Agni-III, with a reported range of 1,800 miles, which, according to a government advisor, is likely to be test-fired later this year.

On 15 and 16 January, officials from the U.S. and India held talks about U.S. missile defense plans and about the possibility of Israel selling its Arrow anti-missile system to India. The Israeli sale would require U.S. approval, and some U.S. officials have said that the sale could harm anti-proliferation efforts though it might bolster U.S.-India relations. The systems will likely cost \$3 billion to \$5 billion, a high price for India.

Sources: Aerospace Daily, 21 January 2003; Baltimore Sun, 12 January 2003; Philadelphia Inquirer, 9 January 2003; Press Trust of India, 9 January 2003; The Times of India, 8 January 2003; Times of India, 3 January 2003

BRITISH DEFENSE MINISTER SUPPORTS APPROVAL FOR U.S. MISSILE DEFENSE RADAR

British Defense Minister Geoffrey Hoon announced on 15 January that his government had come to a preliminary conclusion for approval of a U.S.-requested radar upgrade at the British air base Fylingdales. Such support has been expected since the U.S. officially requested the upgrade earlier this year. The announcement drew some heavy opposition from many Labor Members of Parliament and from the Russian Foreign Ministry, but such resistance is not expected to prevent the upgrade, which is thought to be an important piece of the U.S. national missile defense system that is to be deployed in 2004.

Sources: Global Security Newswire, 15 & 16 January 2003; London Times, 15 January 2003; London Daily Telegraph, 13 January 2003; Baltimore Sun, 18 January 2003

RUSSIAN DEFENSE MINISTER ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR EXTENSIVE MISSILE DEFENSE

On 15 January, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov announced Russia's plans to develop an extensive missile defense system, which could include space-based components. Russia is currently developing several advanced missile interceptors, but they might not be operational for seven to 10 years. The United States has expressed approval for such developments and, according to U.S. ambassadors, is serious about missile defense collaboration with Russia.

Sources: Global Security Newswire, 16 January 2003; Washington Times, 9 January 2003

Nuclear Waste

BRITISH ENERGY FINED FOR DUMPING NUCLEAR WASTE

The nuclear generator British Energy has been fined £15,000 for dumping radioactive waste into the North Sea. The contaminated water was discharged from Torness nuclear power station, in Scotland, in October 2001, due to what British Energy claims was a procedural error. The court was told that the company had failed to measure the strength of contamination and therefore breached the U.K. Radioactive Substances Act of 1993.

Source: BBC, 16 January 2003

RUSSIAN WHISTLE BLOWER, GRIGORY PASKO, RELEASED

Military journalist Grigory Pasko, jailed on charges of espionage for alleging that Russia's navy dumped nuclear waste at sea, was freed by a Russian court on 23 January. The court over-ruled prosecutors and prison officials and gave Pasko a conditional release well ahead of the end of his four-year sentence. Pasko was jailed in December 2001.

Pasko had worked with Japanese television and newspapers gathering information for reports that included allegations that the Russian navy was dumping nuclear waste in the Pacific Ocean. Environmentalists and human rights activists said he had disclosed no state secrets. Pasko's lawyer said he would press to establish his full innocence with the Strasbourg-based European Court of Human Rights.

Source: Reuters, 23 January 2003

Nuclear Energy

INDONESIA PLANS FIRST NUCLEAR REACTOR BY 2015

M. Hatta Rajasa, the Indonesian research and technology minister, announced on 7 January that Indonesia could build its first nuclear power station by 2015 to meet the energy needs of its growing population. Indonesia, the fourth most populous nation on earth, first planned to build nuclear power plants in the early 1990's. The plan was abandoned in 1997 due to public concern.

Source: *CNN.com*, 7 January 2003

JAPANESE COURT HALTED MONJU PLANT REACTIVATION

A Japanese court has halted the reactivation of the controversial Monju nuclear plant, shut down in 1995 following a serious sodium leak. As the Monju plant was expected to play a key role in the national policy of using extracted plutonium at fast-breeder reactors, the court's decision was seen as a significant blow to the government's nuclear program.

The Japanese government is expected to propose new legislation giving it the authority to shut down nuclear power plants and other facilities handling dangerous substances in the event of a military attack.

Sources: *BCC*, 27 January 2003; *Japan Times*, 20 January & 1 February 2003

U.S. TO REJOIN FUSION REACTOR PROJECT

The United States will seek to join a \$5 billion international project to build an experimental fusion reactor, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham announced on 30 January. The United States, which left the project in 1998, calling it too costly and too ambitious, would contribute about 10 percent of the construction costs of the reactor. The project's current partners include Russia, the European Union, Japan, Canada, and possibly China.

Source: *New York Times*, 31 January 2003

Nuclear Matters

DEPLETED URANIUM IN U.S. MILITARY EXERCISES MEETS RESISTANCE

Environmental and peace activists in the northwest of the United States are considering seeking an injunction against the U.S. Navy to halt the use of depleted uranium munitions in military exercises off the coast of Washington State. The Navy uses the munitions in its Phalanx missile-defense system on surface ships. Advocates are concerned that the use of depleted uranium threatens to pollute the environment,

enter the food chain and contaminate fishing stocks.

Sources: *New York Times*, 10 January 2003; *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 9 January 2003; *Seattle Times*, 9 January 2003; *Northwest*, 10 January 2003

BRITISH CLAIM AL-QAEDA WAS TRYING TO MAKE A DIRTY BOMB

According to the BBC, British officials have presented evidence which they claim shows that al-Qaeda had been trying to assemble radioactive material to build a so-called dirty bomb. The British government is said to have secret intelligence from agents sent by Britain into al-Qaeda training camps in Afghanistan, including al-Qaeda training manuals which detail how to use a dirty bomb to maximum effect. British officials said that Bin Laden now had gained the expertise and possibly the materials to build a crude radioactive bomb, though the "bomb" has never been recovered.

Why the British government would release such top secret information has been questioned by some commentators who wonder if it was an attempt to revive fears in Britain and the U.S. about 11 September.

Source: *BBC*, 31 January 2003; *Baltimore Sun*, 31 January 2003

BUSH SIGNS OFF ON NUCLEAR POWERED SPACE ROCKET PROJECT

The Bush administration has signed off on an ambitious nuclear-rocket propulsion project, entitled Project Prometheus, through which the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) hopes to pave the way for the human exploration of Mars. The space agency is expected to request "significant resources and funding" to design a nuclear-powered propulsion system to triple the speed of current space travel.

In other NASA news, recent disclosures following the fatal accident of the space shuttle Columbia on 1 February indicate that there were radioactive sources on board the shuttle and that retrieval operations would be testing debris for radioactivity. The Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space has announced that it will issue a Freedom of Information Request to NASA to seek full disclosure of the type, the amount, and the purpose of radioactive material on board Columbia.

Source: *Los Angeles Times*, 17 January 2003

Foundation News

MOVING BEYOND MISSILE DEFENSE CONFERENCE CONVENES IN BERLIN

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation co-sponsored an international conference with the International Network of Engineers and Scientists Against Proliferation (INESAP)

from 24-26 January in Berlin, Germany. The conference was entitled "International Arms Control, Transparency and Verification in a European-Russian Framework of Cooperative Security" and included presentations by experienced physicists, arms control experts, diplomats, and international lawyers from Europe, Russia, South America, China, and the United States. The issues addressed included missile defense, space weapons, and disarmament verification. For a press release regarding the conference please see our website at:

http://www.wagingpeace.org/pdfs/MBMD_pressrelease.pdf

DAVID KRIEGER SPEAKS IN FRANCE AND GERMANY

Foundation president David Krieger was recently on a speaking tour through France hosted by the Mouvement de la Paix, France's largest peace organization. David addressed town meetings and university groups in Bourges, Saint Etienne, Lyon, Avignon, and Sainte Tulle. He also gave several press interviews. David's message to the enthusiastic French audiences was to keep France strong in its opposition to the war and encourage the French government to use its veto power in the UN Security Council. French audiences were also happy to know about the extent of opposition to the war in the US. The message that the French people sent back to the U.S. was that they were anti-war, anti-Bush, but not anti-American.

David also participated in press conferences and a public rally in Berlin, where the sentiment was equally strong against a U.S.-led war on Iraq.

NATIONAL PEACE EDUCATION GATHERING ASSEMBLES IN CHICAGO

Leah Wells, Peace Education Coordinator at the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, and Danny Muller from Voices in the Wilderness, co-organized a National Peace Education Gathering in Chicago from 23-26 January. At the meeting peace educators from around the country discussed possibilities for a national strategy for peace education, ways to support U.S. Representative Dennis Kucinich's initiative for a Department of Peace and the diverse approaches to peace education.

RICHARD FALK TO GIVE THE 2ND ANNUAL FRANK K. KELLY LECTURE

Foundation Chair Richard Falk, Prof. Emeritus of International Law and Practice at Princeton and a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB), will give the 2nd annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future at 8:00 pm on 26 February. This year's lecture, entitled "American Civil Liberties and Human Rights Under Siege," is free and open to the public and will be hosted at UCSB's Corwin Pavilion.

SUPPORT THE NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

Support the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation by making a tax-deductible contribution at <https://www.ndic.com/waging-peace/supportus.htm>

Resources

The Iraq Crisis and International Law: A Nuclear Age Peace Foundation Briefing Booklet edited by Foundation Chair, Richard Falk, and Foundation President, David Krieger can be found at:

http://www.wagingpeace.org/pdfs/iraq_reader.pdf

Hard copies are also available.

Pakistan and India: Can Nuclear Risk Reduction Centers Help to Strengthen Peace? an occasional paper of the Henry L. Stimson Center By Colonel Rafi uz Zaman Khan is currently available at <http://www.stimson.org/southasia/pdf/nrrc-southasia.pdf>.

Conflict in Iraq: Concerns and Consequences, a new e-newsletter jointly produced by the British American Security Information Council (BASIC), the International Security Information Service (ISIS) and Saferworld specifically on the conflict with Iraq can be subscribed to by sending a request to subscribe@iraqcrisis.org

Visit the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's recently updated Nuclear Files website. Visitors can now easily navigate the site, take a journey through the Nuclear Age and learn about key issues. The site also contains a section for educators with sample course syllabi incorporating lessons from our nuclear history into the classroom. Visit the redesigned and user-friendly Nuclear Files at: <http://www.nuclearfiles.org>

Visit the ever-evolving website of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at <http://www.wagingpeace.org>. We encourage you to check in frequently at the New Site link on the home page, the Activities Calendar, the Action Page and all the other great sections on the site.

Quotable

"We believe that nothing today justifies envisaging military action."

*-Dominique Villepin, January 20, 2003
Foreign Minister of France*

"We are greatly concerned that a military strike against the regime in Baghdad would involve considerable and unpredictable risks for the global fight against terrorism."

*-Joschka Fischer, January 20, 2003
Foreign Minister of Germany*

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