

THE SUNflower

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main languages spoken, while translation was available in French and Spanish. A tremendous energy was palpable from the smallest to the largest Forum event. Beyond the workshops, cultural performances, street theater, and political protests merged into a loud and colorful sea of humanity.

Nuclear Weapons-Related Workshops

The disarmament community was well-represented at the Forum. Our input was crucial given the recent developments in nuclear proliferation issues and increased visibility among the general public. Many experts view Asia as a "hot spot" with regard to nuclear weapons, given the number of nuclear powers within close proximity and their historical rivalries. Consequently, India proved an ideal location to strategize steps toward a world free of nuclear weapons.

For full text, go to http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2004/01/27_coffey_another-world.htm.

KING'S MESSAGE ON VIETNAM IS RELEVANT TO IRAQ

by David Krieger, 27 January 2004

In a lecture in late 1967 over the Canadian Broadcasting Company, Martin Luther King, Jr. addressed the subject of "Conscience and the Vietnam War." His conscience was clearly telling him that this was a war that made no sense and must be stopped.

"Somehow this madness must cease," King said. "We must stop now. I speak as a child of God and brother to the suffering poor of Vietnam. I speak for those whose land is being laid waste, whose homes are being destroyed, whose culture is being subverted. I speak for the poor of America who are paying the double price of smashed hopes at home and death and corruption in Vietnam. I speak as a citizen of the world, for the world as it stands aghast at the path we have taken. I speak as an American to the leaders of my own nation. The great initiative of this war is ours. The initiative to stop it must be ours."

King went on to say in his speech, "The war in Vietnam is but a symptom of a far deeper malady within the American spirit." Within a few months, that malady would result in King's assassination, and over the years since King's death that malady would lead America into other wars in other places.

Perspective

ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE: REPORT FROM THE 2004 WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

by Michael Coffey, 27 January 2004

Introduction:

The third annual World Social Forum was held in Mumbai, India between 16 and 21 January 2004. Previous Forums were held in Porto Alegre, Brasil. The move to Mumbai acknowledges the significant percentage of the world's population that lives in Asia, seeking to increase their access to the event. As a gathering to strategize effective means toward transforming global society with an emphasis on human rights, the Forum drew an estimated 75,000 world citizens. A series of over 1,200 workshops explored the numerous perspectives through which to view globalization: war, imperialism, water, labor, discrimination, and many, many more. The larger panels and events with 4,000 people and more were organized by Forum coordinators while the remaining workshops were self-directed and given space by Forum coordinators. English and Hindi were the

Today, King's words could be transposed from Vietnam to Iraq: "I speak as a child of God and a brother to the suffering poor of Iraq...." And it is still the "poor of America" who are paying the greatest price, the ultimate price on the battlefield and the loss of hope at home, while corporations such as Halliburton reap obscene profits.

For full text, go to http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2004/01/27_krieger_king-message.htm

Take Action

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND THE FUTURE OF US NUCLEAR WEAPONS POLICY

US citizens have the power to voice their concerns in holding the US government accountable for commitments made under international treaties and for failing to take leadership in fulfilling obligations for the phased elimination of its nuclear arsenal. The future of the administration's new nuclear policies will be dependent on US citizens calling on presidential candidates and members of Congress to take principled positions against these policies. To find out more on the candidates' views on US nuclear policy and national security issues, go to:

<http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/action/urgent-actions/us-nuclear-weapons-policy/index.htm>.

ATTEND MISSILE DEFENSE CONFERENCE – THREATS, RESPONSES AND PROJECTIONS

The British American Security Information Council (BASIC) and the Bradford Department of Peace Studies are co-hosting the "Missile Defense Conference – Threats, Responses and Projections" on Thursday 18 March, at the University of Bradford. Conference participants and community members will address issues surrounding missile defense on a global level, as well as within their community since North Yorkshire is home to both Fylingdales radar station and Menwith Hill electronic monitoring station, integral components of the US missile defense structure. Complete conference details can be found at BASIC's website:

<http://www.basicint.org/nuclear/NMD/2004conf.htm>

APPLY FOR THE SCOVILLE PEACE FELLOWSHIP

The Scoville Peace Fellowship provides college graduates with an opportunity to spend up to nine months working with a Washington D.C. organization of their choice. Devon Chaffee, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation Washington DC Representative is a 2002 Scoville Fellow who worked with the Center for Defense Information. The Scoville Peace Fellowship provides individuals with a unique educational

experience, develops leadership skills and contributes to the efforts of the participating nonprofit/public interest organizations. Applications for the fall fellowship are due by 17 February 2004. Visit <http://www.clw.org/scoville/> for complete details.

WHO IS YOUR PEACE HERO?

Peace heroes are individuals who have made major contributions to creating a more peaceful world. Peace heroes serve as exceptional new role models for young people seeking to build a more just and peaceful world, and they provide a good place to start for anyone who wishes to make a contribution to a peaceful future. Read about some of the world's greatest peace heroes at:

<http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/programs/youth-outreach/peace-heroes/index.htm>

Proliferation

IRAN COMPLIANCE IN QUESTION

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Mohammed ElBaradei has urged Iran to cooperate by allowing inspections of its nuclear sites, to prove that its facilities are not weapons related. "It will have serious implications if they do not continue to cooperate fully," ElBaradei told reporters at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Iran's continued efforts to produce and assemble uranium centrifuges have raised concerns over the violation of its recent pledge to suspend its enrichment program. Tehran has insisted that it is adhering to its commitments and claims that the centrifuges are not currently enriching uranium. ElBaradei has urged Iran to cease its centrifuge production.

A western diplomat suggested an oversight on the part of Britain, France and Germany when they negotiated a deal with Iran in November 2003. "Right from the beginning, everybody asked, 'what is suspension,' but the Europeans and Iranians never defined it," he said.

On 15 January 2004, Iranian Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Hassan Rowhani called on Britain, France and Germany to deliver on their promises and increase technological aid. "Iran will not accept restrictions on its peaceful nuclear program," he said. "Iran expects its European friends to honor their commitments."

The US is likely to put forward the issue during the IAEA Board of Governors meeting in March, where Iran could be referred to the UN Security Council for further action.

Meanwhile, Russian Nuclear Energy Minister Alexander Rumyanstev has defended Russia's plans to construct the

first block at Iran's nuclear power plant in Bushehr. Rumyanstev denied that the project was a cover for illicit nuclear assistance to Tehran. "We are building a nuclear station, for money. This is not some kind of aid, this is a commercial project," he said. Russian officials maintain that they have been assisting Iran within all IAEA regulations and requirements.

Rumyanstev is expected to hold talks with the Iranian government in the second half of February, where an agreement on the return of used nuclear fuel from the Bushehr plant to Russia may be signed. Currently, the installation and start-up operations at the site of the plant's first block is almost 90% ready.

According to ministry representative Nikolay Shingarev, "Russian company TVEL has already produced nuclear fuel for the block's reactor and it will be shipped to Iran as soon as the agreement on the return of the used nuclear fuel is signed."

Sources: Global Security Newswire, 21 and 30 January 2004; BBC News, 22 January 2004; Associated Press, 20 January 2004; Economic Wire, 9 January 2004.

PYONGYANG ADOPTS SOFTER APPROACH TO RESOLVE NUCLEAR STANDOFF

"One More Bold Concession"

On 28 January 2004, diplomatic sources indicated that a second round of six-way talks may be taking place on 5 February or 20 February.

In "one more bold concession," North Korea offered to freeze its nuclear program, including weapons and power development, and to regenerate talks on its nuclear weapons program. Pyongyang stated on 6 January that it was "set to refrain from test and production of nuclear weapons and stop even operating nuclear power industry for a peaceful purpose as first phase measures of the package solution."

Secretary of State Colin Powell welcomed the North Korean comments, saying, "It is an interesting statement. It was a positive statement. They in effect said they won't test and they implied that they would give up all aspects of their nuclear program, not just (their) weapons program." He added, "I'm encouraged by the statement the North Koreans made."

Reports have suggested that North Korea is anxious to resolve its differences with Washington. According to a South Korean Official, "We think [North Korea is] very serious about wanting to negotiate in order to survive. They wanted to show the Americans that their nuclear program is transparent, that they are cooperative and they want to resolve this diplomatically."

On 9 January, however, Pyongyang described the possibili-

ty that it might pursue Libya's route in renouncing its weapons of mass destruction as a "delusion." "Middle East events like Libya's renouncing of weapons of mass destruction and the US invasion of Iraq will not have any effect on North Korea."

US Delegation Visits Yongbon

Pyongyang's nuclear freeze offer came when a US delegation traveled to North Korea. Led by John W. Lewis, a professor of International Relations at Stanford University, the group included nuclear scientist Siegfried Hecker, a former director of Los Alamos National Laboratory, where the atomic bomb was first developed, Republican aide Keith Luse and Democratic colleague Frank Jannuzi.

The team visited the Yongbon nuclear facility. It was the first visit by outsiders since UN inspectors were expelled in late 2002. North Korea announced on 10 January that they showed the delegation their "nuclear deterrent," but it remains unclear whether this refers to a nuclear bomb, weapons-making technology or related activities.

Hecker said that he left unconvinced that Pyongyang could develop a nuclear weapon. Although he was handed what was purported to be a sample of weapons grade plutonium, Hecker said, "I saw nothing and spoke to no one who could convince me that they could build a nuclear device with that metal." He also confirmed that the delegates had been shown storage ponds which were used to contain fuel rods, but are now empty.

Speculations on Nuclear Capability

Hecker's account undermines a report by the International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS), which claims that Pyongyang could be producing nuclear weapons at the rate of 8 to 13 bombs a year in the next year or two. IISS assessed that North Korea's ability to dramatically expand its nuclear weapons program depends on how quickly it can complete its 50 megawatt reactor and production-scale centrifuge enrichment plant. The IISS report, however, is based on the assumption that Pyongyang is capable of developing nuclear weapons.

In a recent BBC interview, IAEA Director General Mohammed ElBaradei said the recent U.S. delegation's unofficial visit to the country "confirmed that North Korea possibly have nuclear weapons already developed, not only the capability, but nuclear weapons." He continued, "Add to that North Korea feels very insecure, feels that they need to use nuclear blackmail to achieve their strategic objectives...Put all that together and that makes North Korea the most serious threat to non-proliferation as we know it today."

Sources: Itar-Tass, 28 January 2004; Reuters, 22 January 2004; The Guardian, 22 January 2004; Associated Foreign Press, 22 January 2004; BBC News, 6 and 21 January, 2004; New York Times, 9 and 21 January 2004; LA Times, 13 January 2004; Associated Press, 6 and 12 January 2004; Reuters, 6 January 2004.

PAKISTAN'S ABILITY TO SAFEGUARD NUCLEAR SECRETS UNDER SCRUTINY

Following strong denials that its scientists were the source of high tech centrifuge designs to Libya, Pakistani investigators concluded on 28 January 2004 that two nuclear scientists, Abdul Gadeer Khan, known as the "father" of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program, and Mohammed Farooq, used a covert network to provide nuclear weapons technology to Iran and Libya.

The scientists provided aid, such as blueprints for uranium enrichment equipment, both directly to Iran and Libya and through a network of middlemen. The network of middlemen from countries including Germany, Sri Lanka and South Africa, also offered assistance to Syria and Iraq, but the deals never materialized.

The transfers raised doubts about Musharraf's ability to safeguard sensitive information on nuclear technology and Pakistan's commitment to keep its lethal nuclear technology to itself. Washington claimed it had "pretty convincing" evidence of a link between Pakistan and North Korea's weapons program, which Islamabad vehemently denied.

"Pakistan's program is under tight control and in safe hands," said Information Minister Ahmed al-Hassan. "Let me again say that Pakistan is a responsible state and Pakistan has never proliferated."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan added that international attention on nuclear leaks are unfairly focused on Pakistan when other countries were also involved in the transfer of nuclear technology. Khan described the black market in nuclear weapons-related sales as a "multi-headed monster with tentacles" which stretches across the globe and said that the international community had a responsibility to track down the tentacles.

Despite such concerns, Washington is unlikely to take more action than apply quiet pressure on Musharraf, who is perceived as bulwark against Islamic fundamentalism in the region.

On 27 January, Islamabad announced that it would continue to further enhance its nuclear weapons capabilities. "There should be no doubt that we will pursue our nuclear program," a foreign office spokesman said.

Following investigations on Pakistan's role in spreading nuclear technology, ElBaradei spoke of the existence of a nuclear black market supplying countries covertly seeking to develop nuclear weapons: "A nuclear black market has emerged, driven by fantastic cleverness. Designs are drawn in one country, centrifuges are produced in another, they are then shipped via a third country and there is no clarity about the end user."

Sources: Global Security Newswire, 28 January 2004; Boston Globe, 27 January 2004; BBC News, 27 January 2004; Associated Press, 6 January 2004.

Disarmament & Non-proliferation

LIBYA ENGAGES IN "FULL TRANSPARENCY AND COOPERATION"

Tripoli's Compliance

Libya has promised to provide "full transparency and cooperation" to US and British weapons inspectors. On 23 January 2004, Libya provided UN inspectors with blueprints that IAEA spokesman Mark Gwozdecky said were drawings of a device similar to a nuclear warhead.

As part of its pledge, sensitive documents and "about 55,000 pounds" of equipment related to Libya's nuclear weapons and missile development efforts were flown to the US in January 2004. The equipment included uranium enrichment centrifuges, uranium hexafluoride and guidance sets for long range missiles. A US transport plane is anticipated to be sent to Libya in early February to bring back another shipment of nuclear materials.

White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan said Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi "Made a courageous decision to give up his weapons, and through this transparent process, the world can see that Colonel Qadhafi is keeping his commitment."

Qadhafi's son, Al-Islam Qadhafi, has said that Libya has been promised financial compensation for the dismantlement of any weapons of mass destruction related equipment along with assistance to develop a civilian scientific infrastructure.

Libya ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) on 6 January 2004. Tripoli's ratification brings the total number of CTBT ratifications to 109. Under the treaty, Libya will host a radionuclide station, RN41, at Misratah. The station is part of a 337-facility international monitoring system (IMS) which is being established to verify compliance with the terms of the treaty.

Renewed-Ties

On 26 January, Representative Curt Weldon (R-PA) led a delegation to Tripoli. According to Weldon, "The US may develop a program to fund the disposal of Libya's nuclear and chemical programs similar to the Cooperative Threat Reduction program through which the United States funds WMD disposal efforts in the former Soviet Union."

A separate delegation headed by Representative Tom Lantos (D-California) arrived in Libya on 24 January. The delegation of lawmakers is reported to be working with the White House and the US State Department on the full resumption of diplomatic relations between Tripoli and Washington.

"Nuclear Supermarket"

In an interview with *Der Spiegel*, IAEA Director General Mohammed ElBaradei said the investigation into Libyan nuclear weapons efforts has revealed that Tripoli was assisted by a nuclear "international supermarket" that provided weapons designs, technical advice and necessary materials and components. Libya's centrifuges were produced in factories established solely to build illicit nuclear components, and IAEA officials are investigating one such site in Malaysia.

Sources: Global Security Newswire, 27 and 28 January 2004; New York Times, 15 January 2004; Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization Press Release, 13 January 2004; BBC News, 7 January 2004; The Independent, 6 January 2004.

US LOOKS TO STRENGTHEN THE NPT

The Bush Administration is considering ways to modify the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) regime to deny non-nuclear states access to enrichment and reprocessing capabilities.

Countries signed under the NPT pledge not to acquire nuclear weapons, and in return the nuclear weapon states would assist them in acquiring nuclear technology for peaceful uses – which involves civilian nuclear power plants. But recently, nations such as Iran, Libya and North Korea have exploited the pact to advance their nuclear weapons program.

Washington's proposal considers "cutting off enrichment and reprocessing technology to close the loophole while guaranteeing [non-nuclear states] access to fuel". Although the new proposition will guarantee and enhance the ability of non-nuclear weapon states to obtain nuclear power for electricity, they are denied the right to manufacture, store or reprocess nuclear fuel – a key component for nuclear bombs. The issue is currently in early discussions, but may be formally advanced in the Group of Eight summit in June 2004.

In an interview with German newspaper *Der Spiegel* on 25 January 2004, IAEA Director General Mohammed ElBaradei called for nuclear fuel production facilities to be placed under international control. "Over the past 35 years, the NPT

has brought us much success, but this is not continuing." He added, "We should put all facilities all over the world that produce weapons grade material, such as high enriched uranium or plutonium, under multinational control."

ElBaradei also warned of the escalating risk of a nuclear conflict, a risk that calls urgently for nonproliferation controls. "The danger has never been greater today. A nuclear war is getting close, if we do not agree on a new international control system."

Sources: Global Security Newswire, 26 January 2004; The Guardian, 26 January 2004; Reuters, 25 January 2004.

Weapons in Space

BUSH UNVEILS NEW SPACE AMBITIONS

While the 20th century added a new dimension to warfare with the introduction of nuclear weapons, the 21st could well be remembered by the introduction of an arms race in space.

According to Director for Strategic Affairs at the Atomic Energy Commission, Therese Delpuch, "What is completely new," she said, "is what I call the weaponization of space, which is much more serious, and concerns the possibility in the [near] future of having weapons in space, or developing weapons that can destroy satellites in space. This would add another dimension to warfare."

The Bush administration's recent plans to expand the exploration of space reflects the Department of Defense's Joint Vision for 2020 for "Full Spectrum Dominance," which outlines plans to control space for military, economic and strategic gain. Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld has long advocated for technology that could be used to attack or defend orbiting satellites. He also pushed for a costly program, heavily reliant on space-based sensors, to thwart incoming warheads.

On 14 January 2004, President Bush unveiled his proposal for a new space program, including plans to develop a permanent base on the moon by 2020 as a launch pad for piloted missions to Mars and beyond. Bush said "We choose to explore space because doing so improves our lives and lifts our national spirit." But critics believe that the primary objective of the US mission to Mars is for military benefit, and not just the spirit of discovery.

The Centre for American Progress' Progress Report released on 14 January included an excerpt by Republican Congressman Tom Feeny saying, "Somebody is going to dominate space. When they do, just like when the British dominated the naval part of our globe, established their empire, just like the United States has dominated the air superiority, ultimately, whoever is able to dominate space will be able to control the destiny of the entire earth."

A motivation for Washington's latest proposal may be China's escalating space ambitions. Following Beijing's historic launch in October 2003 of its first piloted spaceflight in earth orbit, China has announced its intention to reach the moon. China also plans to send more astronauts into space in 2005, launch a moon probe within 3 years and land an unmanned vehicle on the moon by 2010, five years ahead of the deadline President Bush had proposed for the US.

In his proposal, Bush is pushing for a \$1 billion boost to National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) budget over five years to kick start the new US campaign.

Sources: Agence France-Presse, 29 January 2004; New York Times, 22 January 2004; Reuters, 18 January 2004; Daily Misdread, 16 January 2004, Minnesota Public Radio News, 14 January 2004.

Missiles & Missile Defense

US MISSILE DEFENSE GAINS MOMENTUM

Australia Consolidates Participation

Australia has confirmed its intention to participate in the US missile defense project when Prime Minister John Howard called the move "a logical way to go" after meeting with US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Richard Myers on 16 January 2004.

According to Howard, "It seems to me a fairly common-sense proposition that if Australia could have access to a system that prevented missiles directed to Australia from arriving in Australia, then it's something we ought to be part of, and I can't understand why anybody would be against it."

Defense Minister Robert Hill has signaled Australia's plan to buy US Missile-3 interceptors as part of its participation in the project. "It's got the capability to basically meet and intercept missiles outside the atmosphere," he said. President Bush has proposed to place 20 of such missiles aboard three navy ships with improved versions of the Aegis system.

On 13 January, Djoko Susilo, an opposition lawmaker in the Indonesian parliament stated, "We are really concerned with this military buildup, its not defensive anymore, its offensive already."

When questioned if Australia's move could escalate an Asian arms race, Hill said, "There is an argument that would encourage others to develop their attack missiles further to proliferate them. But the proliferation is already there."

Canada Willing to Engage

A recent exchange of letters between Canadian defense minister Donald Pratt and US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld indicated Canada's willingness to engage in more detailed discussions "in the coming months" on formalizing participation in US missile defense activities.

"In light of the growing threat involving the proliferation of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction, we should explore extending this partnership to include cooperation in missile defense, as an appropriate response to these new threats and as a useful complement to our nonproliferation efforts, Pratt wrote.

According to Ernie Regehr, Executive director of the Ploughshares Project of Waterloo in Canada, Pratt's letter was significant but the final decision to join in the US missile defense project has yet to be made by Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin.

Europeans Get Involved

US and Polish defense contractors have signed a missile defense cooperation agreement leading to joint efforts to develop radar and other technology for missile defense systems. The memorandum was signed by Lockheed Martin and Przemysloly Instytut Telekomunikacji, a leading Polish defense electronics firm.

The agreement was the latest in a succession of deals between US and European firms. According to Mitch Kugler, Director of Strategic Initiatives, "Allied participation in the ballistic missile defense system is beginning to occur." Boeing recently received US permission to exchange detailed information on the missile defense system with three major European defense firms.

US Launch in October 2004

The current US nuclear impasse with North Korea and the presidential elections are serving to fuel the push towards the launch of a system by the end of October 2004. Despite critics' calls for further testing and development, Bush plans to station 10 silo-based interceptor missiles in central Alaska and southern California together with space and land based sensors. All this will be coordinated by a vast command and control network.

"I have not doubt they'll have something in the ground," said Victoria Samson, analyst at the Center for Defense Information. "Whether or not I think its going to work is the question."

Sources: Global Security Newswire, 16, 23 and 28 January 2004; York News, 21 January 2004; Associated Press, 13 January, 2004; Air Force Magazine, January 2004.

Weapons of Mass Destruction

NEXT STOP SYRIA?

According to Jane's Intelligence Digest, US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is considering staging a military confrontation with Syria by attacking Hezbollah bases near the border Syria shares with Lebanon.

The journal reported that the attack would be conducted within the framework of the global war on "terrorism." The strategic confrontation would include a demand for Syria to abandon its weapons of mass destruction.

Syrian President Bashar Assad said Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi's decision to allow international inspectors to oversee the dismantling of its weapons of mass destruction programs was a "correct" step, but rejected US and UK demands for surrendering its weapons of mass destruction. He stated that Syria is entitled to defend itself by acquiring its own chemical and biological deterrent, and maintained, "It is natural for [Syria] to look for means to defend [itself]." It is widely accepted that Damascus has one of the largest stockpiles of chemical agents in the region.

Assad added, "Any deal to destroy Syria's chemical and biological capability would only materialize if Israel agreed to abandon its undeclared nuclear arsenal," calling on the international community to support the proposal that Syria presented to the UN in 2003 for removing all weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East, including Israel's nuclear stockpile.

Sources: Jerusalem Post, 22 January 2004; The Daily Telegraph, 6 January 2004.

BUSH ADMINISTRATION BACKTRACKS ON IRAQ CLAIMS

On 24 January 2004, Iraq Survey Group (ISG) team leader David Kay resigned from his post. Kay was appointed by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in June 2003 to lead the search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

In an interview after his resignation, Kay said, "What everyone was talking about is stockpiles produced after the end of the last Gulf War and I don't think there was a large-scale production program in the '90s." He added, "I think we have found probably 85% of what we're going to find."

When giving evidence before a Senate committee, Kay said "We were almost all wrong – and I certainly include myself here." He added "We have not discovered any evidence of stockpiles [of weapons]."

The Bush Administration is rapidly retracting its claims about Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction, as they try to shift the blame from the White House onto the intelligence community. On 24 January, Secretary of State Colin Powell conceded that Iraq may not have possessed any weapons of mass destruction stocks before the war last year. Washington has shifted its stance, saying instead that the war was justified because Saddam Hussein was a leader who posed a "grave and gathering threat to America and to the world."

A report published by the US Army War College has criticized the war against Iraq as a "strategic error." Written by academic Jeffrey Record, the professor called the invasion of Iraq "an unnecessary war of choice" and a "detour." Record added: "[The war] against a deterred Iraq has created a new front in the Middle East for Islamic terrorism and diverted attention and resources away from the security of the American homeland against further assault by an undeterrable al-Qaeda."

Meanwhile, the Hutton inquiry has found no fault with the UK government, and Prime Minister Tony Blair maintained that he "has absolutely no doubt" the intelligence about weapons of mass destruction he received prior to the Iraq war was genuine.

Sources: The Independent, 29 January 2004; The Daily Mised, 27 January 2004; BBC News, 13, 24 and 25 January 2004.

ARGENTINA PREVENTS NUCLEAR REACTOR SHIPMENT

An Argentinean Court has prohibited Southern California Edison from shipping a 770 ton decommissioned nuclear reactor from passing within 200 miles of Argentina's coastline.

The ruling is yet another setback for the US utility company, which has undergone a year long effort to transport the old reactor from San Onofre, California to be buried in Barnwell, South Carolina.

Previous attempts to ship the reactor across the nation by train and through the Panama Canal were prevented due to legal problems, forcing Edison to resort to a 13,000 mile journey around Cape Horn, South America, considered the most precarious ocean passage in the world.

Edison plans to use two oceangoing tugs and a barge to travel more than 200 miles off South America but will be forced to come into safer waters around Cape Horn. Utility officials claim that passing farther out heightens the risk of severe winds and icebergs.

"If under any circumstance a ship of this type enters the economic exclusion zone, it would be violating specific orders of the Argentine justice system," said prosecutor Jorge Luis Miquelarena.

Exclusive economic zones have been created by several Latin American countries to protect the ocean environment and secure resources such as fishing and oil. "Argentina, Chile and Brazil are increasingly concerned about nuclear shipments. Chile now requires permission for these shipments to come within 200 miles of its coast," said Professor Van Dyke, who teaches international law at the University of Hawaii Law School.

But despite these concerns Edison claims that the retired reactor is encased in concrete and a steel canister and emits virtually no detectable radiation.

A treaty known as the Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-Boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was called upon to reinforce the order given to Edison which authorizes countries to outlaw shipments of hazardous materials and toxic waste through territorial waters. The treaty, established by the United Nations in 1982 and signed by Argentina among many other countries, was originally created to control the illegal dumping of toxic and hazardous wastes in developing countries.

"Our fear, first is for shipping and other activities, which would come to a complete stop in case of an accident. This is the first thing you would notice before the impact on health and the environment, which would be long-term," said Greenpeace official Juan Carlos Villalonga.

Environmental groups are notifying countries along the proposed shipment route in an effort to stop the dangerous cargo from making the trip and instead explore alternative measures to dispose of the old reactor.

Sources: *LA Times*, 16 January, 2004; *North County Times San Diego County*, 16 January, 2004.

US FEDERAL COURT HEARS ARGUMENTS OVER YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT

On 14 January, 2004 the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia heard oral arguments from the State of Nevada in the 25-year battle over the US Energy Department's plan to construct a long-term nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

Attorneys for the state of Nevada and environmental groups argued that federal agencies ignored scientific logic and broke Nevada state law in proposing to bury 77,000 tons of nuclear waste in a mountain 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

The court consolidated 13 separate lawsuits, nine of which were filed by Nevada jurisdictions. Nevada officials consider the federal court is their best chance of stopping the \$58 billion project, which has been the focus of debate since 1982 when Congress ordered Yucca Mountain to be the nation's central repository.

Nevada's legal team challenged the Yucca Mountain Project in three main areas:

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) radiation standards are too weak for areas around the site;
The Nuclear Regulatory Commission should demand that the natural characteristics of the site be able to contain the waste without the need for manmade barriers; and
The Department of Energy used flawed criteria when selecting Yucca Mountain.

Geoffrey H. Fettus, who argued the case for the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group, said he was "cautiously optimistic" that the judges would order the EPA to meet higher public protection standards, which will lead to the conclusion that the Yucca site is not safe.

It is estimated that Nevada has spent over \$100 million fighting this project, arguing that Yucca Mountain is environmentally unfit to hold deadly nuclear waste for the next 10,000 years.

An Energy Department spokesman said the agency is confident in its conclusion and will go on to seek a license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the waste site and open the dump in 2010.

The court panel is expected to issue its decision in late spring or summer, and attorneys on both sides said they would appeal to the full appellate court if they lose.

Sources: *Global Security Newswire*, 15 January 2004; *New York Times* 14 January 2004.

Nuclear Insanity

SMOKESCREEN TO PROTECT GERMAN NUCLEAR PLANTS

Germany is considering using the dispersal of clouds or artificial fog to defend nuclear power stations against airborne terrorist attacks.

Responding to the 9/11 attacks, a spokeswoman at Germany's Federal Environmental Ministry confirmed that the corporations that manage the country's 18 nuclear power stations are assessing the installation of artificial fog machines as a defense against terrorist attacks from the air.

Under the proposal, "A nuclear power plant under attack is surrounded within seconds by an artificial dense wall of fog," which would disguise a power station's location from the air.

Ben Eden, Managing director of Pea Soup, manufacturer of fog and smoke machines, said, "[The smoke] can certainly hide the building, but there are many factors." The presence of wind, for example, would be an obstacle to the project.

Chris Foss of Jane's Defence Weekly, said, "You are going to need smoke that covers a large area very quickly." He added, "Also, what happens to your own people on the ground?" Foss suggests that a more practical solution would be to intercept incoming aircrafts by using missile defense system installed at the nuclear sites.

Source: *New Scientist*, 12 January 2004.

DOE EMPLOYEES TAPE TOGETHER NUCLEAR WEAPON

US federal investigators discovered that workers dismantling an aging nuclear weapon taped together broken pieces of a highly explosive component, risking an explosion that could have injured or killed employees at the plant and also spread plutonium and other radioactive materials around the facility.

The incident was one of several safety blunders at the Department of Energy's Pantex Plant near Amarillo, Texas. In Fall 2003, workers taking apart another old nuclear warhead accidentally drilled into the warhead's radioactive core, forcing evacuation of the facility.

Source: *Associated Press*, 24 January 2004.

RUSSIA TO FLAUNT MILITARY MIGHT

Russian President Vladimir Putin is planning a series of military exercises intended to demonstrate the nation's renewed military might. According to Russian newspaper *Kommersant*, the tests will closely resemble a 1982 Soviet exercise known as the "seven hour nuclear war" that put the

West on the brink of panic. The exercises are expected to take place in mid-February, ahead of the presidential elections in March.

According to *Kommersant*, the maneuvers would involve Tu-160 strategic bombers test-firing cruise missiles over the northern Atlantic, imitating a nuclear attack on the US; Bombers deployed over Russia's Arctic regions, test-firing missiles at a southern range near the Caspian sea; Several launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles, including one from a nuclear submarine in the Barents Sea; The launch of military satellites from the Baikonour cosmodrome in Kazakhstan and Plesetsk launch pad in northern Russia, a stimulation of satellites lost in action; and Activities related to Moscow's missile defense system.

Head of the Moscow Office for the Center of Defense Information, Ivan Safranchuk, said the maneuvers would strengthen Putin's run for presidency. Putin vowed to rebuild Russia's military capacity and bring back dignity to the country's military force.

Source: *Associated Press*, 31 January 2004.

Foundation News

NAPF THIRD ANNUAL FRANK K. KELLY LECTURE ON HUMANITY'S FUTURE

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is pleased to announce that Dame Anita Roddick will present the Third Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future on 17 February 2004 at 8 pm. The lecture, entitled "*Kindness as a Key to Humanity's Future*," will take place at UC Santa Barbara's Corwin Pavilion. The event is free and open to the public.

Dame Anita Roddick is founder of The Body Shop and an eminent author and speaker. Since founding The Body Shop in 1976 with the mission "*To dedicate our business to the pursuit of social and environmental change*," Roddick has become an icon for corporate responsibility and social justice practices. She is the author of five books and has received numerous awards for her work, including most recently being named Dame Commander of the British Empire. She serves as trustee to a number of international organizations, including the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. For more information visit:

<http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/programs/public-events/frank-kelly-lecture/3rd-annual-lecture/index.htm>

NEW DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER JOINS FOUNDATION

The Foundation is pleased to announce that Carah Ong has returned as our Development and Communications Officer. From June 1999 until August 2002, Ong worked at the Foundation as Research and Publications Coordinator (December 2000-August 2002) and as Abolition 2000 Coordinator (June 1999-December 2000). Ong returns to the Foundation with an enthusiastic communications and development plan for the Foundation and its work to abolish nuclear weapons and create a more just and secure world. She can be reached at the Foundation's offices or by email at development@napf.org

EXTENDING THE DEMOCRATIC PEACE

The World Without War Council has published *Extending the Democratic Peace*, 7th edition by Robert Woito. *Extending the Democratic Peace* begins its analysis from the understanding that democracies have not waged war against one another since 1945. Woito presents strategies that might preserve the peaceful cooperation between existing democracies and assist in the peaceful transition to democratic governance in nations around the world. To obtain an examination copy of *Extending the Democratic Peace*, email Robertwoito@aol.com

NATO AND NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT: AN ANALYSIS OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE NATO ALLIES OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AND THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY

The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER) released *NATO and Nuclear Disarmament*, a report that scrutinizes US nuclear weapon policy, international law, and the security relationship between Europe and the US. The report advocates the US ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), that NATO declare a no-first-use nuclear weapons policy, and recommends a renewed commitment to existing obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Without such measures, it argues that global nuclear chaos appears inevitable. You can view the report at IEER's website <http://www.ieer.org/reports/nato/preface.html>.

WWW.PEACEED.ORG

The National Campaign on Peace Education announced the launch of their new website [peaceed.org](http://www.peaceed.org). Peaceed.org was created to fulfill the need for bringing together resources, organizations and information on peace education in the United States in one 'hub' to create an organized place for people looking for information about peace education in its many forms. Leah Wells, Co-Coordinator of the US Campaign for Peace Education and Peace Education Consultant to the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, is featured as an individual educator at this site.

STAR WARS: US TOOLS OF SPACE SUPREMACY

Star Wars: US Tools of Space Supremacy by Loring Wirbel is an insider's analysis of the US Space Command and the offensive nature of the US Space program. Wirbel claims US "full spectrum dominance" of the skies with space based weapons, communications and intelligence gathering satellites will bring global chaos through its misuse by the US government. *Star Wars: US Tools of Space* is available now from online retailers, and will reach bookstores in February.

UNRAVELING THE KNOWN UNKNOWN: WHY NO WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION HAVE BEEN FOUND IN IRAQ

This Special Report by the British American Security Information Council (BASIC) documents the events since the first BASIC Special Briefing on Iraq in April 2003, *The Hunt for Chemical and Biological Weapons in Iraq*. *Unraveling the Known Unknowns* analyzes pre and post-war evidence to determine how US and UK intelligence experts got it wrong. Since US and coalition forces have not discovered prohibited weapons in Iraq, *Unraveling the Known Unknowns* concludes that UN weapons inspections succeeded in their mandate and Iraq complied with its international obligations to disarm.

You can view entire the *Unraveling the Known Unknowns* report at BASIC's website, <http://www.basicint.org/pubs/Research/2004WMD.htm>

To view BASIC's first Special Briefing on Iraq, *The Hunt for Chemical and Biological Weapons in Iraq*, visit <http://www.basicint.org/pubs/HuntforChemWIraq.pdf>

Quotable

"We have the right to denounce, to pressure and to demand changes an end to this ridiculous and absurd situation that has turned us into hostages." - *Cuban Leader Fidel Castro on nations with nuclear weapons during his 45th anniversary speech on 3 January 2004.*

"I still have a dream today that war will someday end...What we seek in the name of Martin Luther King Jr. is not merely the absence of war, but the presence of peace." - *Coretta Scott King speaking in Atlanta on Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2004.*

"Radical change cannot be negotiated by governments; it can only be enforced by people." - *Arundhati Roy in The Nation, 9 February 2004*

Support

Thank you for subscribing to The Sunflower and for your interest in the Foundation's work. Please consider increasing your support by making a donation today. We depend entirely upon the support of people who share our goals of a more peaceful and nuclear weapons-free future. Please contribute and become a partner in creating a better world for ourselves and the next generation. Your contribution will allow us to continue to provide quality education and advocacy tools and programs, including The Sunflower and empowering a new generation of peace leaders.

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