

THE SUN *flower*

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have the capability to defend itself with all that this implies, and we are preparing." This thinly veiled threat recalls Israel's 1981 airstrike that destroyed the Osirak reactor in Iraq, then the core of the Iraqi program. International reactions to that attack were not very damaging to Israel and there were no serious regional repercussions--factors that could encourage Israel, either alone or via the United States, to consider a strike on Iran.

To read the full article, visit:

http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2006/01/27_falk_storm-clouds-over-iran.htm.

**Richard Falk, chair of the board of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, is the author of Religion and Humane Global Governance (Palgrave), The Great Terror War (Olive Branch), and most recently, The Declining World Order (Routledge). Since 2002 he has been Distinguished Visiting Professor of Global Studies at UC Santa Barbara.*

Take Action

Perspectives

STORM CLOUDS OVER IRAN

by Richard Falk*, 27 January 2006

A dangerous escalation of tensions in the Middle East could produce a devastating new war there if diplomatic steps are not taken to head it off. The United States and Israel, with the cooperation of some European countries, have been stoking a climate of fear to justify a military attack on Iran's nuclear facilities. At the very least, they seem determined to refer the matter of Iran's nuclear program to the United Nations Security Council as a step toward imposing sanctions.

There has been a tsunami of dramatic public statements by prominent leaders. Vice President Cheney has been darkly hinting for months that a military attack may be in the offing, either by Israel or the United States. In January Jacques Chirac made a highly irresponsible statement that France might resort to nuclear weapons to retaliate for acts of state-sponsored terrorism, a posture that could only persuade Iran to deter such nuclear trash-talk by attempting to get the bomb. On January 22 Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz told a Jerusalem audience that "Israel will not be able to accept an Iranian nuclear capability, and it must

TELL CONGRESS TO JUST SAY "NO" TO BREAKING THE NONPROLIFERATION RULES UPON WHICH OUR SECURITY DEPENDS

Write a letter to your Representative urging them to co-sponsor H. Con. Res. 318, a bi-partisan resolution to preserve the nonproliferation regime.

On July 18, 2005, US President George W. Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced a new deal to allow the resumption of full civilian nuclear cooperation between the two countries for the first time since India improperly used US nuclear material for its 1974 bomb test. The US should strengthen ties with India through expanded cooperation in trade and human development, scientific and medical research, energy technology, and humanitarian relief, but the US should not expand nuclear cooperation with any state if it comes at the expense of efforts to curb the spread of nuclear weapons.

If the deal is approved in its current form by Congress and the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group, it could severely damage the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the nonproliferation regime. India has refused to sign the NPT, has detonated nuclear bombs, and refuses to accept full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards over all of its nuclear facilities. As a result, India does not qualify

for full civil nuclear cooperation under existing US laws and global nuclear export regulations. India also refuses to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and stop the production of fissile material for its expanding nuclear arsenal.

Even if India agrees to meaningful safeguards on its "civilian" facilities, US nuclear aid would free up India's existing capacity to produce highly enriched uranium and plutonium for weapons. According to Indian nuclear hawk K. Subrahmanyan, in order to expand India's nuclear arsenal, it should "categorize as many reactors as possible as civilian" to facilitate foreign refueling and conserve India's scarce "native uranium fuel for weapons-grade plutonium production."

On December 15, 2005 Congressman Edward J. Markey (D-MA) and Congressman Fred Upton (R-MI) introduced H. Con. Res. 318 in the House of Representatives. H. Con. Res. 318 expresses concern regarding nuclear proliferation with respect to proposed full civilian nuclear cooperation with India, and for other purposes.

This legislation will compel the United States to consistently fulfill its obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The legislation will also allow the United States to demonstrate its ongoing commitment to global non-proliferation and to conserve positive international relations with states currently party to and complying with the rules of the NPT.

Among other measures, the H. Con. Res. 318 calls for:

- Congress to express concern over the possibility that the supply of nuclear fuel to India could result in the capacity for India to produce fissile material for weapons purposes, and thus compromise the ability for the US to comply with Article 1 of the NPT;
- the US to support efforts by the Nuclear Suppliers Group to make full-scope safeguards a necessary condition for the export of nuclear materials to non-nuclear-weapon states;
- recognition that the proposal for full nuclear cooperation between the United States and India poses far-reaching and adverse implications for US nuclear nonproliferation objectives, and will do little for long-term Indian alignment with US strategic objectives;
- the strengthening of ties between the United States and India through means such as trade, scientific research and humanitarian relief rather than through the trade in nuclear materials;
- the US to recognize the importance to world security of ceasing the production of fissile materials for weapons purposes;
- the Congress to recognize the common interest held by both the United States and India in reducing the global threat of nuclear weapons through nonproliferation; and
- the US to disapprove of proposals for the export of nuclear materials to any country that is not a party to the NPT and has detonated a nuclear weapon, or is a non-nuclear-weapon state under the NPT but has not accepted full-scope IAEA safeguards over its nuclear facilities.

Weakening existing US nonproliferation laws in order to facilitate the US-Indian nuclear deal will have negative security impacts for America and undermine global nonproliferation efforts. Tell Congress to just say "No" to breaking the nonproliferation rules upon which our security depends.

For more information on the US-Indian nuclear deal, read "Wrong Ends, Means, and Needs: Behind the U.S. Nuclear Deal With India" by Zia Mian and M. V. Ramana on the website of the Arms Control Association at: http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2006_01-02/JANFEB-IndiaFeature.asp.

Nuclear Divestment

NORWAY STOPS INVESTING IN COMPANIES THAT PRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS

In January 2006, Norway announced that it has stopped investing, via its state pension fund, in seven companies which it says are involved in the production of nuclear weapons as those activities "violate fundamental humanitarian principles."

The companies that Norway will no longer invest in are BAE Systems, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, Honeywell International, Finmeccanica, Safran and United Technologies Corporation.

The Norwegian government said shares worth about \$500 million (£286m) had been sold in the companies at the end of 2005. According to Finance Minister Kristin Halvorsen, the center-right government of Kjell Magne Bondevik had taken the decision before it was voted out of office in September 2005. Halvorsen also said the current Labour administration supported its predecessor's action, based on recommendations it had received from the fund's Ethics Council.

The Norwegian government said it had based its decision on information available on the companies' websites as well as independent analysis. It said it had asked each of the companies concerned to clarify their position regarding nuclear weapons. One company confirmed its involvement, while the other six either did not reply or declined to discuss the subject.

The Norwegian Finance Ministry stated, "According to the ethical guidelines for the Government Pension Fund - Global, companies that produce weapons that through normal use may violate fundamental humanitarian principles shall be excluded. Nuclear weapons are considered to be in this category of weapons."

The Finance Ministry also said that further companies could be excluded from the fund in the future, if found to be involved in the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

The fund - formerly known as the state petroleum fund - is one of the world's largest pension funds. It is managed by Norway's Central Bank under government guidelines.

Norway is opposed to the proliferation of nuclear weapons, although it remains a member of NATO, several of whose members have nuclear weapons arsenals.

Source: "Norway culling 'nuclear shares,' BBC News, 5 January 2006.

Proliferation

FRANCE MAY USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN RESPONSE TO TERRORISM

On 19 January 2006, French President Jacques Chirac announced during his first major speech on France's nuclear weapons strategy since 2001 that his country would be ready to use nuclear weapons against any state that carried out a terrorist attack or used weapons of mass destruction against it.

During a speech at nuclear submarine base in northwestern France, President Chirac stated, "The leaders of states who would use terrorist means against us, as well as those who would consider using, in one way or another, weapons of mass destruction, must understand that they would lay themselves open to a firm and adapted response on our part. This response could be a conventional one. It could also be of a different kind." President Chirac also stated, "Against a regional power, our choice would not be between inaction or annihilation. The flexibility and reactivity of our strategic forces would enable us to exercise our response directly against its centers of power and its capacity to act."

President Chirac also said France's nuclear forces have been reshaped with a new strategy in mind and the number of warheads on nuclear submarines had been reduced to allow targeted strikes.

Critics have questioned the role of France's nuclear deterrent in the post-Cold War world, especially as France is struggling to haul its public deficit to below EU limits. France's nuclear deterrent, which is made up of some 300 nuclear weapons, accounts for some 10 percent of its overall defense budget.

According to Sortir du Nucleaire, a disarmament group in France, "Far from ridding France of nuclear weapons, the president is, on the contrary, considering the actual use of nuclear bombs."

Source: Pineau, Elizabeth, "France hints at nuclear riposte to terrorism attack," Reuters, 19 January 2006.

Nuclear Legacy

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF END OF FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE PACIFIC

27 January 2006 marked the 10th anniversary of the end of 30 years of French nuclear testing in the Pacific. From 1966 to 1996, France conducted 193 atmospheric and underground nuclear tests on the Polynesian atolls of Moruroa and Fangataufa.

For many outside the Pacific, the era of French nuclear testing became a thing of the past, a closed chapter. However, for the former test site workers of Polynesia, it was only the beginning of a long struggle.

Today, there is a continued personal struggle to come to terms with serious health problems and diseases that had been unknown in the Pacific prior to nuclear testing. In many cases, relatives and loved ones have also had to cope with coming to terms with the premature deaths of the victims.

"Moruroa e tatou" (Moruroa and Us) was founded in 2001 with the following goals :

- The recognition by the French State of its responsibility regarding the health of the former workers and of the populations affected by the fallout.
- The opening of the French military archives in order to bring to light the truth about the so-called "harmlessness of the tests."
- The passing of a law in the French Parliament on the health follow-up of the people affected by the nuclear tests.
- A financial compensation from the French State for the victims and for their families.

Ten years since the tests ended, the Moruroa e tatou is still confronted with the unyielding official French stance that the tests were "clean" and that there is no link between the tests and the current state of health of the former test site workers.

For more information please contact Marie Pierre Hazera or Ema Tagicakibau of the Peace and Disarmament Desk at the Pacific Concerns Resource Center by email at: mphazera@pcrc.org.fj or etage@pcrc.org.fj.

Nuclear Insanity

US SENATOR CLAIMS 60-70% OF RUSSIAN NUCLEAR ARSENAL IS MISSING

On 30 January 2006, US Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Oklahoma) made remarks on the Senate floor, erroneously describing the problems President Bush inherited from previous administrations. Senator Inhofe stated, "The fifth thing was the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This is something we saw. When the Soviet Union fell, when the vast nuclear stockpile kind of disappeared--we had people going up there, including brokers--and then we could only identify some 30 or 40 percent of that which was stolen from the massive stockpile that the Soviets had put together. That means there is about 60 to 70 percent of the stolen stockpile out there, and we are not sure where that is."

FORMER GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTER SAYS COUNTRY SHOULD CONSIDER NUCLEAR ARSENAL

On 26 January 2006, former German Defense Minister Rupert Scholz said that his country should consider building a nuclear arsenal in response to the threat of nuclear terrorism. According to former Defense Minister Scholz, "We need a serious discussion over how we can react to a nuclear threat by a terrorist state in an appropriate manner - and in extreme cases with our own nuclear weapons."

A member of Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union party, Scholz said Berlin should first seek binding guarantees from NATO that the alliance would protect Germany in the event of a nuclear threat. However, he insisted if such guarantees were not spelled out in a formal NATO doctrine, then Germany needed to ponder building its own nuclear deterrence system.

Source: "Germany may need nuclear weapons, ex-defence minister says," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 26 January 2006.

Nuclear Insecurity

MORE RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL STOLEN IN VENEZUELA

In the latest in a string of similar incidents, Venezuelan officials announced on 4 January 2006 that thieves have stolen equipment containing radioactive material used in the oil industry. Angel Diaz, head of the energy ministry's nuclear affairs department, warned the Cesium-137 material could cause contamination if exposed. The equipment, used in oil prospecting, was stolen in the last week of December 2005 in eastern Anzoategui State.

Authorities arrested three police officers in December 2005 after they were linked to the robbery of a truck carrying a device containing Iridium-192, used to check oil pipelines.

In March 2005, two other capsules with Iridium-192 went missing through negligence in two separate incidents. Both of

those capsules have since been found, one dumped in Lake Maracaibo in the west of the country.

In Brazil in 1987, scrap-metal scavengers took a container with Cesium-137 from an abandoned radiation-therapy clinic. Children smeared the material on their faces and bodies because it glowed after the container was opened. Four people died and about 250 suffered from radiation contamination in that incident.

Source: "Venezuelan thieves steal another radioactive unit," Reuters, 4 January 2006.

Missiles and Missile Defense

UKRAINE TO REBUILD MISSILE FORCES?

In January, Ukraine announced plans to rebuild its dismantled Missile Forces despite remarks made on 24 December 2005 by Colonel-General Nikolai Solovtsov, Commander of Russia's Strategic Missile Troops, that Russia's nuclear umbrella covers not only Russian territory but all former Soviet Republics who belong to the Commonwealth of Independent States. On 12 January 2006, Ukrainian Defense Minister Anatoly Gritsenko announced, "From the military standpoint, we have an interest in re-establishing the Missile Forces...These weapons will enable us to provide a deterrence factor."

It was only four years ago that the Ukrainian Missile Forces personnel training center, the Marshal Krylov Military Institute in Kharkiv, was officially closed and the 43rd Missile Army disbanded. Although Ukraine closed its facilities, it retains the technologies, skilled specialists and industrial equipment required to produce missiles, including everything needed to revive its Missile Forces, says Vitali Shlykov, member of Russia's Foreign and Defense Policy Council. Many experts believe the announcement to rebuild its forces is a purely political move brought on by the row with Russia over gas prices that culminated on 1 January 2006 when Russia cut gas supplies to Ukraine.

Sources: "Russian-Ukrainian gas dispute unrelated to heavy missile use," RIA Novosti, 24 December 2005; Myasnikov, Viktor and Vladimir, Ivanov, "Yushchenko is prepared to go for missiles," Nezavisimaya Gazeta, 16 January 2006.

FOUR TESTS OF US GROUND BASED MIDCOURSE MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM PLANNED IN 2006

On 10 January 2006, the US Missile Defense Agency (MDA) announced four planned tests of its ground based midcourse defense system in the coming year. Although specific dates have not been set, the nature of each test was announced by an MDA spokesman. The first test of 2006 will consist of a target missile launched from Kodiak Island, Alaska, which will be tracked by ground based midcourse radar stations

that will collect data on its trajectory for use in future tests. An interceptor missile will not be launched. The second test will be the first-ever interceptor test launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB) in California. In the past, VAFB has hosted a number of missile defense related tests including target missile launches, interceptor booster tests, and other tests of interceptor components. In this second test of 2006 a target missile will not be fired. The third test will be a "data-collection fly-by," essentially an intentional failed intercept, using a target missile from Kodiak and an interceptor from Vandenberg. The fourth test of 2006 will be a live intercept attempt, using a target missile launched from Kodiak and an interceptor from Vandenberg.

Source: Bishop, Sam, "Missile system tests set," Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, 11 January 2006.

FIRST TEST OF AIRBORNE LASER PLANNED FOR 2008

On 26 January 2006, Colonel John A. Daniels, Director of the Airborne Laser (ABL) System Program Office at the US Missile Defense Agency, announced that the ABL should be ready to attempt to shoot down a ballistic missile in a live-fire test in late 2008. The planned test comes three years behind the original schedule. More than \$3.5 billion will have been spent on the program by the time the first ABL is tested in 2008. The Air Force originally estimated it would need seven ABL planes, at a cost of \$13 billion, to maintain 24-hour patrol around any global hotspot.

The ABL represents the most mature boost phase missile defense system developed by the US Missile Defense Agency. According to Jeffrey Kueter, President of the Marshall Institute, the ABL is, "the only program under development capable of providing defense in the boost phase [of an enemy's missile] within the next decade. The only other [boost phase] program under development, the Kinetic Energy Interceptor program, has suffered numerous budget cuts in recent years and it is uncertain whether it will ever be deployed." Its likely Colonel Daniels announced a 2008 test of the ABL because continued funding for the 12 year old ABL program is being debated within the Pentagon and White House.

Sources: "Test Failures Slow U.S. Missile Defense," Associated Press, 18 January 2006; Brosnan, James W., "Laser defense on three-year timeline," Scripps Howard News Service, 28 January 2006.

WORLD PUBLIC DOESN'T SUPPORT NEW NUCLEAR PLANTS - IAEA

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) sponsored an 18-country survey to gauge public opinion on nuclear issues. The survey found, "that while majorities of citizens generally support the continued use of existing nuclear reactors, most people do not favour the building of new nuclear plants." 1,000 people in each of 18 countries were asked six questions about their awareness of the IAEA, effectiveness of IAEA inspections, views on nuclear security, support of peaceful applications of nuclear technologies, support for nuclear power, and the influence that potential climate benefits have on support for nuclear power.

In addition to demonstrating that the world's people do not support the construction of new nuclear power plants, the survey indicates a majority of people believe that the risk of terrorist acts involving radioactive materials and nuclear facilities is high because of insufficient protection.

Source: "Global Nuclear Survey: Public Support for New Power Plants Remains Tentative," IAEA Press Release, 16 December 2005.

EXELON COMPENSATING LANDOWNERS FOR RADIOACTIVITY

On 25 January 2006, the people of Illinois received a veiled apology after officially learning that higher-than-normal levels of tritium were found in groundwater near the Braidwood Nuclear Power Plant, 60 miles southwest of Chicago, Illinois. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency cited Exelon for two violations of the state's groundwater standards because levels of the radioactive isotope have been measured at more than 11 times the federal limit. Exelon has until 3 February 2006 to file a report that catalogues the level of tritium in areas adjacent to Braidwood.

Exelon has already agreed to buy out one property owner where elevated levels of tritium were found. Exelon is also in negotiations with more than a dozen other landowners to compensate them for any harm that results from the years of leaked tritium. In addition, Exelon is offering to test the wells of 28 property owners who live next to a pipeline that broke in 1998 and leaked radioactivity. Exelon's actions are not entirely altruistic, since local environmental groups and nuclear watchdog groups have been demanding higher public safety standards for years and have been demanding Exelon to take greater responsibility for damages.

According to the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS), Exelon Corporation, the power plant operator, withheld information up until November 2005 regarding the leakage of millions of gallons of radioactive water in 1998 and 2000. According to NIRS, Exelon has trivialized the impact

tritium exposure might have on residents and the environment. According to Paul Gunter, director of NIRS' Reactor Watchdog, "Clinical studies prove that laboratory exposure to tritium causes cancer, birth defects and genetic damage."

During the 25 January 2006 statement by Exelon officials, Thomas O'Neill, Exelon's vice president of regulatory affairs admitted, "We should have done better... this is a black eye for Exelon Nuclear. We are not happy about this.... We put tritium into the ground in a place where it is not supposed to be. We acknowledge our failing in that regard, and we are going to fix it and make it right."

Sources: "Nuclear Co. Plans Post-Leak Land Buyouts," Associated Press, 25 January 2006; Nuclear Information and Resource Service; Dardick, Hal and Hawthorne, Michael, "Exelon admits its fault in leak," Chicago Tribune, 26 January 2006.

NOT-SO-ADVANCED US ENERGY INITIATIVE INTRODUCED IN STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

During his fifth State of the Union Address on 31 January 2006, President George W. Bush introduced the "Advanced Energy Initiative," a proposal that wrongfully classifies nuclear energy as clean and paves the way for the construction of new nuclear power plants. The President described the Initiative as, "a 22-percent increase in clean-energy research - at the Department of Energy - to push for breakthroughs in two vital areas. To change how we power our homes and offices, we will invest more in zero-emission coal-fired plants, revolutionary solar and wind technologies, and clean, safe nuclear energy."

Missing from his address was an explanation why the President sought cuts in alternative energy programs in the Fiscal Year 2006 budget. Also missing, was an explanation why the President characterizes the importance of investment in clean energy, but only increases funding for energy research and development incrementally instead of ambitiously funding alternative and renewable energy programs.

A truly Advanced Energy Initiative would scrap the billions of dollars in subsidies dished out to the nuclear industry in the 2006 Energy Bill, would call for higher fuel economy standards for all passenger vehicles, and would boldly cut tax breaks for oil and gas companies as an incentive to end the US addiction to petroleum.

Sources: Wald, Matthew and Andrews, Edmund, "Call to Cut Foreign Oil Is a Refrain 35 Years Old.," New York Times, 1 February 2006.

FIRSTENERGY GETS LARGEST FINE EVER FOR LYING ABOUT REACTOR SAFETY

FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company will pay a record \$28 million fine in the next 60 days to avoid being criminally prosecuted for lying to the government about the dangerous condition of Davis-Besse's old reactor head. The company must also cooperate with the government in the prosecution of three former Davis-Besse employees who have been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of making false statements to a federal agency.

The \$28 million fine is in addition to a \$5.45 million civil penalty from April 2005, which the company has already paid. The latter had been the largest fine ever imposed in US nuclear history until the new fine was announced on 20 January 2006. According to prosecutors, the fines cannot legally be passed on to ratepayers.

David M. Uhlmann, chief of the US Department of Justice's environmental crimes section, said the \$28 million fine is to let operators of America's 104 nuclear plants know that the government will deal with them harshly if any of them are caught lying again.

Mr. Uhlmann said the company showed "brazen arrogance" by withholding information in the fall of 2001 when the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was debating internally whether Davis-Besse was too dangerous to keep operating past 31 December of that year. Ultimately, senior NRC officials overrode a staff recommendation to shut down the plant immediately. They struck a compromise to let it keep operating until 16 February 2002 - six weeks shy of its planned shutdown date of 31 March 2002. The NRC now says it would never have done that if it had known at the time that the plant's old reactor head was on the verge of rupturing.

US Representative Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio), who has called for FirstEnergy's operating license at Davis-Besse to be revoked, said the fine was a "slap on the wrist" for a utility that "put the health and well-being on millions of residents of northern Ohio at grave risk." Kucinich also said that the \$28 million fine - as enormous as it sounds - still represents less than 1 percent of the utility's 2004 profit.

Source: Henry, Tom, "FirstEnergy to pay \$28 million fine for lying; Davis-Besse's punishment largest in nuclear industry," Toledo Blade, 21 January 2006.

Foundation Activities

NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE MAIREAD MAGUIRE TO PRESENT THE FOUNDATION'S 5TH ANNUAL FRANK K. KELLY LECTURE ON HUMANITY'S FUTURE

Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Corrigan Maguire will present the Foundation's 5th Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future in Santa Barbara, CA on 21 February. Maguire's talk, entitled "A Right to Live without Violence, Nuclear Weapons and War," will be held at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Mairead Maguire was presented the Nobel Peace Prize in 1976 for her work in Northern Ireland to quell religious and political violence. The Kelly Lecture is named for Frank K. Kelly, a founder and senior vice present of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. For more information about the lecture, please contact the Foundation at (805) 965-3443.

FOUNDATION TO HOST ITS 2006 INTERNATIONAL LAW SYMPOSIUM

From 23-25 February, the Foundation will host its 2006 International Law Symposium. This year's symposium theme is "At the Nuclear Precipice: Nuclear Weapons and the Abandonment of International Law." Policy experts from throughout the country will gather in Santa Barbara, CA to discuss nuclear weapons policy in the aftermath of the failed Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 2005 and present new ideas on how to reinvigorate the global non-proliferation regime. A public panel will be held the evening of 23 February featuring Daniel Ellsberg, Ambassador Thomas Graham, Professor Richard Falk, Mairead Corrigan Maguire and the Honorable Douglas Roche, O.C.. For more information on this year's symposium, please contact the Foundation at (805) 965-3443.

FOUNDATION NAMES NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR

The Foundation is pleased to announce Dave Dionisi as its new Deputy Director. Dave is a former Army intelligence officer and former senior executive with Fortune 500 companies. His business and military experiences over the last 24 years are complemented by an extensive background as an international volunteer worker in Asia, Central America, Europe and Africa. He is the author of American Hiroshima (published in Canada by Trafford in 2005 and in South Korea by Sanzini in 2006) detailing how current US foreign policy is leading to greater insecurity and offering ideas on reducing terrorism and increasing cooperation among nations.

Chris Pizzinat, the Foundation's longtime Deputy Director, has accepted a position at the University of California, Santa Barbara where he begins in mid-February. We wish him well in his new endeavors.

PUBLIC LECTURE WITH CINDY SHEEHAN AND SEAN PENN

Foundation Deputy Director Dave Dionisi participated in an "Out of Iraq" public lecture in Sacramento, CA on 7 January, sponsored by Physicians for Social Responsibility. Dave shared his observations on the British experience in Iraq following World War I and his insights from his November 2005 visit to the Middle East where he interviewed people from Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (a summary of his interviews are available in the form of an article titled "How To Achieve Peace In The Middle East" at http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2005/11/00_dionisi_how-to-achieve-peace-in-the-middle-east.htm). Well-known peace activist Cindy Sheehan shared her experiences protesting the Iraq war. Cindy was followed by Academy Award winner Sean Penn who called for an immediate withdrawal of US military forces from Iraq.

INCREASING OUR IMPACT & INCREASING OUR MEMBERSHIP

The Foundation is testing ideas to expand our membership and we are creating a blueprint for national expansion. The basic concept is to make peace a sustainable business by combining the best people with the best technology. The initial phase of obtaining ideas for the blueprint is underway. The Foundation held the opening session in Davis, California on 28 January. We already have many exciting new ideas from this meeting.

We plan on piloting ideas for expansion to refine the blueprint for most of 2006. We currently have 43 new northern California members and ten of these members have joined the NAPF blueprint team. To help us take that next leap forward for world peace, we need blueprint ideas from around the world. Anyone interested in the helping us define the blueprint for expansion and test new ideas should contact Dave Dionisi at ddionisi@napf.org.

Resources

THE RELIABLE REPLACEMENT WARHEAD PROGRAM: A SLIPPERY SLOPE TO NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The Reliable Replacement Warhead Program: A Slippery Slope to New Nuclear Weapons, by Robert Civiak for Tri-Valley CAREs, is a report that thoroughly describes the US' proposed Reliable Replacement Warhead program. The report finds the Reliable Replacement Warhead program would significantly harm US national security because pursuit of a new generation of nuclear warheads would disrupt international cooperation on nonproliferation.

The complete report is available as a PDF document at http://www.trivalleycares.org/TVC_RRW_FNL.pdf.

ENERGY REVOLUTION: A SUSTAINABLE PATHWAY TO A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE FOR EUROPE

Energy Revolution: A Sustainable Pathway to a Clean Energy Future for Europe, produced by Greenpeace, illustrates a realistic scenario where phasing out nuclear power and massively reducing CO2-emissions is possible.

The complete report is available as a PDF document at <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/press/reports/energy-revolution-a-sustainab>

KINETIC ENERGY KILL FOR BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE: A STATUS OVERVIEW

Kinetic Energy Kill for Ballistic Missile Defense: A Status Overview from the Congressional Research Service, is a report that discusses the lack of substantial progress in missile defense interceptors. Published 18 January 2006, the report finds, "The data on the US flight test effort to develop a national missile defense is mixed and ambiguous. There is no recognizable pattern to explain this record nor is there conclusive evidence of a learning curve over more than two decades of development testing."

The complete report is available as a PDF document at <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/weapons/RL33240.pdf>.

Quotable

"When we step back from the headlines, it should be clear that we cannot continue to lurch from crisis to crisis, until the regime is buried beneath a cascade of nuclear proliferation. Twice last year governments had the chance to strengthen the foundations of the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) regime, by agreeing on more robust IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) inspections; incentives and guarantees for countries to forgo the enrichment and reprocessing of fissile materials; and energetic steps to meet disarmament commitments. Both times, they failed. We cannot afford any more such squandered chances."

UN Secretary General Koffi Annan
Responding to the prospects Iran being referred to the Security Council
31 January 2006

"Russia ... has tested missile systems that no one in the world has... These missile systems don't represent a response to a missile defense system, but they are immune to that. They are hypersonic and capable of changing their flight path."

Russian President Vladimir Putin
Remarks made during news conference
31 January 2006

"In comparing American behavior to Iran with countries that recently developed nuclear weapons, [the Americans]... think that in ten years time we will develop nuclear weapons. But compare that to India. It does have nuclear weapons but [the West] have extensive relations in the nuclear field. This dual standard is detrimental to international security."

Ali Larijani, Iran's top nuclear negotiator
Remarks made during and interview on CNN
17 January 2006

"I do not believe that any political figure in the country has the ability to set aside any...law of armed conflict that we have adopted or treaties that we have ratified... If we go down that road, it will cause great problems for our troops in future conflicts because [nothing] is to prevent other nations' leaders from doing the same."

US Senator Lindsey O. Graham (R-South Carolina)
Remarks made during an interview with the Boston Globe
5 January 2006

"It has to go someplace and that Yucca Mountain was the best built facility in the country... We just have to take one for the team."

Crystal Wosik, Miss Nevada
Response to questions about Yucca Mountain during preparations for the Miss America Pageant
19 January 2006

"Before she [Crystal Wosik] gets up there and starts representing the state of Nevada, she needs to find out more about what the issues are. Instead, she's shooting from the hip with a ridiculous statement that feeds into many people's idea that Miss America contestants are bimbos."

Peggy Maze Johnson, Executive Director of Citizen Alert
Remarks made in response to Miss Nevada's comments
20 January 2006

Editorial Team

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