

# THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

## Issue #127 - February 2008

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## Perspectives

### NATO Nuclear First Use Option

by David Krieger

A recent article in *The Guardian*, "Pre-emptive nuclear strike a key option, Nato told," by Ian Traynor, January 22, 2008,

refers to a report by a group of former senior military officers and strategists that calls for keeping open the prospect of resorting to the first use of nuclear weapons. The report's five authors – including John Shalikashvili, a former NATO commander and a chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Clinton administration – argue that current threats and challenges require NATO to keep open this option. The report states, “The first use of nuclear weapons must remain in the quiver of escalation as the ultimate instrument to prevent the use of weapons of mass destruction.” In their worldview, similar to that of President Bush, nuclear weapons are not just tools of deterrence; they are weapons that can be used preemptively.

To read more, visit: [www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/01/23\\_krieger\\_nato\\_first.php](http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/01/23_krieger_nato_first.php).

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## **Toward a Nuclear-Free World**

by G. Shultz, W. Perry, H. Kissinger and S. Nunn

The accelerating spread of nuclear weapons, nuclear know-how and nuclear material has brought us to a nuclear tipping point. We face a very real possibility that the deadliest weapons ever invented could fall into dangerous hands.

The steps we are taking now to address these threats are not adequate to the danger. With nuclear weapons more widely available, deterrence is decreasingly effective and increasingly hazardous.

One year ago, in an essay in this paper [the *Wall Street Journal*], we called for a global effort to reduce reliance on nuclear weapons, to prevent their spread into potentially dangerous hands, and ultimately to end them as a threat to the world. The interest, momentum and growing political space that has been created to address these issues over the past year has been extraordinary, with strong positive responses from people all over the world.

To read more, visit: [www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/01/15\\_kissinger\\_nuclear\\_free.php](http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/01/15_kissinger_nuclear_free.php).

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## **The Case for US Leadership for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World**

by David Krieger

1. Continued reliance on nuclear weapons by powerful countries will lead to nuclear proliferation and increase the possibility of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of terrorist groups.
2. Terrorists cannot be deterred from using nuclear weapons. Terrorist groups do not have a fixed territory, and it isn't credible to threaten retaliation against a group that you cannot locate.
3. A terrorist use of nuclear weapons against a powerful country could destroy cities and have many other detrimental effects on the social, political and economic fabric of the state.

To read more, visit: [www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/01/30\\_krieger\\_case\\_leadership.php](http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/01/30_krieger_case_leadership.php).

# **Nuclear Proliferation**

## **Top Brazilian General Pushes for the Development of Nuclear Weapons**

In a television interview in early November, a top Brazilian General, Barros Moreira, backed by Congressional Deputies of the Workers Party and the Popular Socialist Party, presented an argument for Brazil to develop nuclear weapons. Moreira, a four-star general, is currently a senior official in Brazil's Ministry of Defense and the former head of Brazil's War College.

Moreira urged Brazil to become a “global player,” and emphasized the importance of keeping up with the technological and defensive “Joneses” to do so. He argued that Brazil's wealth in resources makes it a target for attack. He said, “The world

lacks water, energy, food and minerals...Brazil is rich in all of these. For this reason we must put a strong lock on our door.”

He also offered that no nation can truly feel safe without technology that “enables it to defend itself when necessary.”

This heightened rhetoric emerged with the shift of the Workers Party government in terms of defense spending. The Defense Ministry requested a 50% increase in arms spending for 2008, military appropriations increased from \$3.5 to \$5 billion, and plans to purchase new fighter jets and develop a nuclear submarine are being examined. Some believe this heightened military emphasis is in response to vast defense spending by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, but the Lula government has denied this connection.

Van Auken, Bill, “Top General Urges Brazil to Develop Nuclear Weapons,” [www.inteldaily.com](http://www.inteldaily.com), November 19, 2007.

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## Colombia Ratifies Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

The Colombian government ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) on January 29, making Colombia the 144th nation to do so. Since 2007, seven other nations have ratified the treaty – Malaysia, Barbados, the Dominican Republic and Moldova among them. Colombia’s ratification of the treaty leaves South America only seven nations short of being a complete CTBT continent.

Colombia’s ratification is significant because it is one of the 44 “Annex 2” states that must ratify the treaty before it can be entered into force. India, Pakistan, and North Korea are the only Annex 2 states that have yet to sign the treaty. Annex 2 states that have signed the treaty but have not ratified it are the US, China, Iran, Israel, Egypt and Indonesia.

In the US, the Senate must vote 2/3 in favor of the CTBT for ratification. A vote was held in 1999, but fell short of the 2/3 majority needed. However, efforts continue to be made in Congress for the US to join the other 144 nations that have ratified the treaty. US Representative Ellen Tauscher introduced a resolution (H. Res. 822) on December 17, 2007 calling for the Senate to give bipartisan consent to the ratification of the CTBT.

“Colombia ratifies the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty,” [www.ctbto.org](http://www.ctbto.org), January 30, 2008.

## Nuclear Insanity

### Due to Air Force’s Nuclear Mishap, Arms Handling Rules Change

Last August, a crew at the Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota mistakenly loaded six missiles carrying dummy warheads and six missiles carrying active nuclear warheads onto a B-52 bomber on its way to a Louisiana base. The Air Force had no knowledge of the mix-up or the breach of public safety until after the bomber arrived at its destination. As a result, the Air Force has added strict specificity to its storage policies and inventory system.

When the August 29 mix-up occurred, the warheads, nuclear and dummy alike, were all catalogued only by a number, and were stored together in the same facility. The new rules dictate that all non-nuclear missiles are to be labeled with a placard reading “empty” or “trainer” to create distinction. They also prohibit nuclear and non-nuclear munitions and missiles to be stored together in the same structure, cell, or WS3 (underground storage unit). While these changes in policy have not been directly attributed to the Minot Air Force base mishap, they speak directly to the elements of flawed procedure exposed on that day.

Apart from changing policy, the Air Force has also enacted disciplinary consequences for the incident. The four colonels responsible for not recognizing the active missiles onboard were relieved of their commands and 65 other officers involved were disciplined. The new rules mandate that every wing commander select an individual to conduct a visual inspection of each missile before loading them onto the transportation vehicle. Hopefully these new policy measures will prevent active

warheads from flying unknown and unauthorized over the country again.

Pincus, Walter, "Air Force Alters Rules for Handling of Nuclear Arms," *Washington Post*, January 25, 2008.

## Nuclear Energy and Waste

### Union of Concerned Scientists Analyzes Nuclear Power in a Warming World

In the midst of a worldwide frenzy to develop answers to the problem of global warming, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) released a report analyzing the dangers of increasing US reliance on nuclear energy. UCS argues that while the life-cycle of nuclear power results in relatively little global warming pollution, increasing dependence on this form of power by constructing new plants could result in heightened security threats.

The UCS report advised Congress on how to address issues of nuclear safety, waste management, and reprocessing. In the domain of nuclear safety, the report said that the US has strong safety standards for its nuclear power plants, but that these standards aren't upheld by the responsible organization: the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The report recommended that Congress mandate the hiring of managers outside the NRC to enforce the safety standards. The report also argued that while the US has among the world's highest safety standards, they are still inadequate to ensuring the protection of nuclear power facilities against credible threats. To remedy this flaw, UCS urged Congress to take the protection of nuclear power facilities away from the NRC and place the responsibility instead in the hands of the Department of Homeland Security.

In terms of nuclear waste management, UCS approved of the storage of spent fuel in dry casks on the condition that they would be heavily guarded and that this solution would be only short term. For the long term, UCS stressed the need for a geological repository site to store nuclear waste, and urged Congress to set aside political disputes and find a site other than Yucca Mountain.

In blunt terms, the report addressed the flaws in the Bush administration's fuel reprocessing plans. UCS argued that the proposed Global Nuclear Energy Partnership offers no benefits in the realm of waste disposal and will only result in increased risk of nuclear proliferation and terrorist attacks.

The report was co-authored by three UCS experts: David Lochbaum, Dr. Edwin Lyman and Dr. Lisbeth Gronlund.

"Nuclear Power in a Warming World," *USA Today*, December 12, 2007. The full report is available at the UCS website: [www.ucsusa.org/nuclearandclimate](http://www.ucsusa.org/nuclearandclimate).

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### Drought Could Force Closing of Nuclear Plants

Nuclear reactors across the southeastern US could be forced to throttle back or temporarily shut down later this year because drought is drying up the rivers and lakes that supply power plants with the awesome amounts of cooling water they need to operate.

An Associated Press analysis of the nation's 104 nuclear reactors found that 24 are in areas experiencing the most severe levels of drought. All but two are built on the shores of lakes and rivers and rely on submerged intake pipes to draw billions of gallons of water for use in cooling and condensing steam after it has turned the plants' turbines.

Because of the yearlong dry spell gripping the region, the water levels on those lakes and rivers are getting close to the minimums set by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Over the next several months, the water could drop below the intake pipes altogether, or the shallow water could become too hot under the sun to use as coolant.

“Drought Could Force Closing of Nuclear Plants,” *Associated Press*, January 23, 2008.

## Resources

### Super Tuesday Primaries: Candidates and US Nuclear Weapons Policy

Voters are heading to the polls in 24 states on Tuesday, February 5 to vote in the Presidential primaries. Do you know where the candidates stand on US nuclear weapons policy?

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has compiled [quotes and voting records](#) of the major candidates to show their position on the following five issues:

- Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
- Disarmament
- Missile Defense
- New Nuclear Weapons
- Use of Nuclear Weapons

[Click here](#) to see what the candidates are saying about issues that matter to you.

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### Mayors for Peace Update

As of January 28, 2008, Mayors for Peace has added 46 new member cities, for a total of 2,028 member cities in 127 countries and regions. New cities include Brockton, Massachusetts and Evanston, Illinois.

Mayors for Peace is composed of cities around the world that have formally expressed support for the abolition of nuclear weapons. To learn more about Mayors for Peace, visit: [www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/outlines/index.html](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/outlines/index.html).

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### Hiroshima Peace Media Center

On January 3, 2008, the Hiroshima Peace Media Center was launched on the Internet by the Chugoku Shimbun to provide the latest peace news in both Japanese and English. The Center provides multi-media resources to support its goal of the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The Chugoku Shimbun is one of the largest newspapers in Japan. It was founded in 1892 in Hiroshima. The 11-story building housing the newspaper was destroyed when the US dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Along with the deaths of 220,000 Japanese people, nearly one-third of the newspaper's workforce was killed. Since then, the Chugoku Shimbun has devoted itself to advancing world peace.

The Hiroshima Peace Media Center's website is a reliable media resource, providing current and historic articles and photos. Their web address is [www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp](http://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp).

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## Foundation Activities

### Peace Educator Colman McCarthy to Speak at 7th Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture

Former *Washington Post* columnist and prominent peace educator Colman McCarthy will present the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's 7th Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on February 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Santa Barbara City College's Fé Bland

Forum. Admission is free.

McCarthy's message will be clear: *“Unless we teach our children peace, someone else will teach them violence.”*

The title of his talk is “Teach Peace,” and he is calling for a significant change in our educational system.

McCarthy believes peace studies should be part of the core curriculum. He believes the philosophy of peace, the writings of great peace leaders and non-violent conflict resolution should be part of a very practical, community-oriented approach to education.

If you will be in the Santa Barbara area, we strongly encourage you to attend what promises to be a meaningful and moving event.

For more information, please visit the [Frank K. Kelly Lecture page](#) on our website.

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## Foundation President David Krieger to Speak in Mexico City

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation President David Krieger will be a featured speaker at the conference of the International Network of Engineers and Scientists at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico from February 29 - March 3.

The conference, entitled “Science, Peace and Sustainability,” will focus on the role scientists can play in the civil society movement for peace. Dr. Krieger will talk specifically about militarization, nuclear weapons and human security.

For more information, visit [www.inesglobal.com](http://www.inesglobal.com).

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## Join H.H. the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu in Signing the NAPF Appeal

His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, both winners of the Nobel Peace Prize, have signed the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation’s Appeal to the Next President of the United States.

The Appeal calls for US leadership for a nuclear weapons-free world. It will be sent to the next President when he/she takes office on January 20, 2009.

We encourage you to sign the Appeal online at [www.wagingpeace.org/appeal](http://www.wagingpeace.org/appeal). You can also download paper copies of the Appeal. [Click here](#) for the color version, or [click here](#) for the black and white version.

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## Foundation Sponsors Public Hearing in Madison, Wisconsin

On Saturday, February 16 at 10:00am, at the State Capitol building in Madison, Wisconsin, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will be holding a citizens’ hearing for the public to learn about new nuclear weapons plans and policy. The public will also be given the chance to make their own comments on the record to the Department of Energy.

Nickolas Roth, Washington, DC Director, will give a presentation addressing the US nuclear stockpile and US nuclear policy. Prior to this event, the Hiroshima Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition will be displayed in the Capitol rotunda for five days. For more information, contact Nick Roth at [nroth@napf.org](mailto:nroth@napf.org).

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## Quotes

“We have flown the air like birds and swum the seas like fishes, but have yet to learn the simple act of walking the earth like

brothers.”

-- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

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“The first use of nuclear weapons must remain in the quiver of escalation as the ultimate instrument to prevent the use of weapons of mass destruction.”

-- **Gen. Dr. Klaus Naumann** (Germany), **Gen. John Shalikashvili** (US), **Field Marshal The Lord Inge** (UK), **Adm. Jacques Lanxade** (France) and **Gen. Henk van den Breemen** (Netherlands), encouraging NATO to retain an overt policy of first use of nuclear weapons. The quote appeared in a report entitled “Towards a Grand Strategy for an Uncertain World.”

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“I propose internationally agreed access to an enrichment bond or nuclear fuel bank to help non-nuclear states acquire the new sources of energy they need. But this offer should be made only as long as these countries renounce nuclear weapons and meet internationally enforced nonproliferation standards.”

-- UK Prime Minister **Gordon Brown** in a November 12, 2007 speech on foreign policy.

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“The world faces great risks from nuclear weapons that need to be urgently addressed by political leaders and scientists worldwide. There is now a window of opportunity to do so.”

-- Editorial in the scientific journal *Nature*, January 10, 2008.

## Editorial Team

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