

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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The Sunflower is a monthly e-newsletter providing educational information on nuclear weapons abolition and other issues relating to global security. Help us spread the word and forward this to a friend.

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Perspectives

Working Tirelessly to Lessen the Nuclear Threat

by David Krieger

I want to thank each of you who supported our idea on Change.org for “US Leadership to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Globally.” Our idea was one of nearly 8,000 ideas submitted to Change.org. With your help, we finished in the top 35 ideas to change America (number 23, I believe). We also had 76 institutional endorsers of our idea from throughout the world, and hundreds of individual comments on the need for abolition. In addition, many tens of thousands of people were alerted to the idea and received some education on the need for action on nuclear disarmament, even if they did not choose to vote.

To read more, visit: http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/01/20_krieger_working_tirelessly.php.

The Dawning Age of Nuclear Zero

by Gary Hart

It is never clear to us why and how certain critical events reach a tipping point -- that is how they fundamentally depart from the status quo. In the case of six decades of nuclear armament, that may be particularly true. But an argument can be made that we are at or near such a tipping point, a tipping point away from expanding nuclear arsenals and toward the elimination of all nuclear weapons.

To read the full article, visit: http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/01/22_hart_dawning_zero.php.

Rules of the Game

by New York Times Editorial Staff

President George W. Bush, and his aides, could hardly wait to get rid of all those tiresome arms-control treaties when they took office. They tore up the 1972 antiballistic missile treaty to make way for a still largely pie-in-the-sky missile defense system. They opposed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and never made a serious effort to win a ban on the production of fissile material (the core of a nuclear weapon).

To read more, visit: http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/01/30_nyt_editorial.php.

Nuclear Proliferation

North Korea Not Ready for Nuclear Disarmament

North Korea announced it is not ready to disarm, saying that it will wait until diplomatic relations with the United States have been established and until it is sure that there are no US nuclear weapons in South Korea.

According to the North Korean Foreign Ministry, “We won’t need atomic weapons when US nuclear threats are removed, and the US nuclear umbrella over South Korea is gone.”

The governments of the United States and South Korea both deny that US nuclear weapons are deployed in South Korea for a possible attack on the North.

“North Korea Not Ready for Nuclear Disarmament,” *Global Security Newswire*, January 13, 2009.

Nuclear Insanity

Obama Gets Nuclear Football

Immediately after being inaugurated on January 20, President Obama received the 45-pound briefcase known as the “football,” which allows him to order a nuclear strike from any location. Immediately after being sworn into office, a

military aide carrying the briefcase stood near Obama, and the device will remain near Obama throughout his presidency.

The morning of his inauguration, Obama was given information on the device, such as the personal identification number and details on how to call down a nuclear strike.

A handbook that goes over nuclear and conventional conflict battle plans, a secure telephone for contact with command facilities at the Pentagon and other sites, and additional emergency-planning material are all included in the briefcase.

President Obama has pledged to work with Russia to take all nuclear weapons off “hair-trigger” alert.

“Obama Gets Nuclear ‘Football,’” *Global Security Newswire*, January 22, 2009.

Panel Wants US to Keep Nuclear Weapons In Europe

The United States should keep tactical nuclear bombs in Europe and even consider modernizing older warheads on cruise missiles to maintain credibility with allies who depend on the US weapons for security, according to a panel appointed by Defense Secretary Robert Gates.

“The presence of US nuclear weapons in Europe remains a pillar of NATO unity,” the report says, adding: “Some Allies have been troubled to learn that during the last decade some senior US military leaders have advocated for the unilateral removal of US nuclear weapons from Europe.”

Pincus, Walter, “Panel Urges Keeping US Nuclear Arms in Europe,” *Washington Post*, January 9, 2009.

Nuclear Energy and Waste

International Renewable Energy Agency Founded

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) held its founding ceremony January 26 in Bonn, Germany. The ceremony was attended by 125 governments and non-governmental organizations. Of these, 75 governments signed the statute during the ceremony, and many more stated they will do so in the near future.

Stated in the statute is the objective of IRENA, which is to “promote the widespread and increased adoption and the sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy.”

German Parliamentarian and World Future Councilor Dr. Hermann Scheer began initiating the creation of IRENA many years ago. IRENA is now considered the first international organization that focuses mainly on the issue of renewable energies in both the industrialized and developing worlds.

For more information on IRENA, and to read the founding statement, visit www.irena.org.

“International Renewable Energy Agency Founded in Bonn,” *www.irena.org*, January 26, 2009.

War and Peace

China Renews No First Use Policy

China’s long-standing policy of “no first use” of nuclear weapons was reaffirmed in its annual defense survey.

The report states that if China were threatened by another country's nuclear weapons, it would first put its arsenal on full alert. It goes on to state that if another nation fires nuclear missiles at China, it would then launch a counter attack.

China and India are the only countries to explicitly articulate a policy of "no first use."

Johnson, Tim, "China Renews Pledge of 'No First Use' of Nukes," *McClatchy Newspapers*, January 20, 2009.

US Ratifies Convention on Conventional Weapons

On January 21, the United States ratified the final protocols to the Convention on Conventional Weapons, which is an annex of the Geneva Convention. The Convention seeks to prohibit or restrict the use of certain conventional weapons that are considered excessively injurious or whose effects are indiscriminate.

The particular protocols ratified on January 21 cover incendiary weapons, blinding laser weapons and explosive remnants of war.

"US Ratifies Treaties on Conventional Weapons," *Agence France Presse*, January 23, 2009.

Resources

Nuclear Security Spending: Assessing Costs, Examining Priorities

The United States spent at least \$52 billion on nuclear weapons and related programs in 2008, but only 10 percent of that went toward preventing a nuclear attack and slowing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and technology. That is the main finding of *Nuclear Security Spending: Assessing Costs, Examining Priorities*, a new study by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. These misplaced budget priorities signal to the world that the United States is more interested in preserving and upgrading its nuclear arsenal than in reducing and eliminating the growing threats of nuclear proliferation and limited nuclear or radiological attack.

To download the report, visit <http://carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm>.

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty: Current Developments

The Congressional Research Service has released a new publication titled *Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty: Background and Current Developments* by Jonathan Medalia.

The report briefly outlines the history of nuclear testing and discusses contemporary issues relating to nuclear testing, such as the recent North Korean nuclear weapon test and the pros and cons of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty as currently written.

To read the report, visit: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/nuke/RL33548.pdf>.

Journeys of Nonviolence: A Training Fellowship for K-12 Teachers

Ahimsa Center at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona invites applications from K-12 educators for a fellowship to participate in an interdisciplinary residential institute on Journeys of Nonviolence: Gandhi and King, the pioneers of nonviolent action for social transformation.

The two-week program will be held on campus in Pomona from July 12-25, 2009.

For details about the program focus and format, fellowship and benefits, fully-paid 8 units of course credits, program requirements, selection criteria and application procedures, please visit: http://www.csupomona.edu/~ahimsacenter/specialevents/summer_institute_2009.shtml.

For questions and additional information, contact Dr. Tara Sethia at tsethia@csupomona.edu.

Foundation Activities

Frances Moore Lappé to Speak at Foundation Lecture

Best-selling author and activist Frances Moore Lappé will speak at the 8th Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future on February 25.

Ms. Lappé, whose books include *Diet for a Small Planet* and *Democracy's Edge*, will speak about "Living Democracy, Feeding Hope."

The event will take place at 7:00 pm at the chapel at La Casa de Maria, 800 El Bosque Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108.

For more information, call the Foundation office at (805) 965-3443.

Last Weeks to Collect Signatures for Appeal to President Obama

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, together with our principal partner, the Campaign for a Nuclear Weapons Free World, will submit the Appeal for US leadership to the Obama administration in early March.

We have collected tens of thousands of signatures so far. Please take this final opportunity to let your family, friends and colleagues know about the Appeal. Anyone can sign the Appeal online at www.wagingpeace.org/appeal.

David Krieger to Speak in Hawaii

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation President David Krieger will speak at the University of Hawaii, Manoa campus on Thursday, February 12 at 1:30 pm, and again at 6:00 pm at the American Friends Service Committee House in Manoa.

Dr. Krieger's topic will be "New Hope for Nuclear Weapons Abolition."

For more information, contact carolep@hawaii.edu.

Quotes

"I attach great importance to...the wide-ranging efforts of Governments, citizens' groups and activists throughout the world in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation."

-- United Nations Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon**

"It's essential to strengthen the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime, dealing with those nations in violation and upholding our obligations to work towards the goal of a world without nuclear weapons."

-- **Susan Rice**, United States Ambassador to the United Nations

“I think the UK is very close to saying we’re the first permanent member of the Security Council to do away with nuclear weapons.”

-- Retired NATO military commander **General Jack Sheehan**

Editorial Team

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