

# THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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## Perspectives

### Become a Peace Leader and Change the World

by David Krieger

I'd like you to learn the skills to do something great in your life, to make a difference in the world by becoming a peace leader. What could be a greater or more satisfying challenge than working to make the world more peaceful and just?

Leadership begins with thinking big, with having dreams and goals that are larger than one person can accomplish. Nearly all important goals may seem like impossible dreams until someone comes along and dreams them. Leadership requires a vision of a better future and at least a rough idea of a plan to achieve the vision. It requires convincing others that the vision is worth pursuing and the plan makes sense. Leadership is about moving people to action. It is best accomplished by persuasion and by setting the right example for others. Leadership has the power of mobilization.

To read more, [click here](#).

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### A Global Push for Clean Energy

by Alice Slater

IRENA is committed to becoming a principal driving force in promoting a rapid transition toward the sustainable use of a renewable energy on a global scale. It has a mandate to promote all forms of renewable energy produced in a sustainable manner, including solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower, ocean, and appropriate bio energy. It will provide practical advice and support for both industrialized and developing countries, helping them to build capacity and improve their regulatory frameworks.

To read more, [click here](#).

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### **A Memory of Howard Zinn**

by Daniel Ellsberg

Recently, I was being interviewed by the *Boston Phoenix*, in connection with the release in Boston in February of a documentary in which he is featured prominently. The interviewer asked me who my own heroes were, and I had no hesitation in answering, first, "Howard Zinn."

Just weeks ago after watching the film on December 7, I woke up the next morning thinking that I had never told him how much he meant to me. For once in my life, I acted on that thought in a timely way. I sent him an e-mail in which I said, among other things, what I had often told others about him: that he was, "in my opinion, the best human being I've ever known. The best example of what a human can be, and can do with their life."

To read more, [click here](#).

## **US Nuclear Weapons Policy**

### **US Nuclear Weapons Policy Headed In Opposite Directions**

For the moment, US nuclear weapons policies appear to be running in contrary directions, and while some critics of US nuclear policy are cautiously optimistic, they are also worried President Obama's nuclear disarmament vision is not yet being supported by concrete policy actions.

The Obama administration is moving ahead with the development of new nuclear weapons components at three key weapons facilities at the same time it is conducting a sweeping review of US nuclear weapons policies that could lead to further slashing the US nuclear arsenal.

The administration is in the final stages of a major nuclear weapons policy review. Officially called the Nuclear Posture Review, it is expected to be completed as early as March, involving a thorough look at the size, structure and mission of the US nuclear arsenal.

Nuclear arms observers say Obama's vision of reduced reliance on nuclear weapons is being challenged by a lack of consensus in the policymaking community, the federal bureaucracy, and vested interests in Congress.

McElwee, Joshua, "[US Nuclear Weapons Policies Headed In Opposite Directions](#)," *National Catholic Reporter*, January 22, 2010.

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### **2011 Budget Calls for Nuclear Weapon Refurbishment**

The 2011 budget that will be submitted to Congress the first week of February will include \$600 million more than the 2010 budget for nuclear weapons. Furthermore, funding for nuclear weapons is expected to increase by more than \$5 billion over the next five years.

The White House attempts to rationalize increased nuclear weapons spending by saying that it will allow the United States to recruit, train and retain skilled workers to maintain our nuclear capabilities. However, they do not satisfactorily explain how spending billions more on nuclear weapons will achieve President Obama's stated vision of a world free of nuclear weapons or prevent other countries from increasing their nuclear weapons programs as well.

In his recent op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal*, Vice-President Biden wrote, "As long as nuclear weapons are required to defend our country and our allies, we will maintain a safe, secure and effective nuclear arsenal. The president's Prague vision is central to this administration's efforts to protect the American people - and that is why we are increasing investments in our nuclear arsenal and infrastructure in this year's budget and beyond."

Biden's quote is based on the faulty assumption that nuclear weapons defend us. Furthermore, President Obama's Prague speech called for a world free of nuclear weapons, not billions of dollars in new spending on the nuclear weapons complex.

Biden, Joe, "[The President's Nuclear Vision](#)," *The Wall Street Journal*, January 29, 2010.

## **Nuclear Proliferation**

## Gates Addresses Pakistani Concerns Over US Nuclear Contingency Plans

On a recent visit to Pakistan, US Defense Secretary Robert Gates faced questions in virtually all of his public and private meetings in the Pakistani capital about purported US plots to seize Pakistan's nuclear weapons and build permanent American military bases, complicating his stated hope of forging closer ties between Washington and Islamabad.

The Obama administration is trying to persuade Pakistan to abandon its long-standing preoccupation with India and instead devote new military resources to the fight against the country's extremists. But the widespread belief that the Obama administration is secretly conspiring against Pakistan has made that argument a much harder sell.

Dreazen, Yochi, "[Gates Confronts Pakistani Reports of US Plots, and Fuels a Rumor](#)," *The Wall Street Journal*, January 22, 2010.

## Nuclear Insanity

### Air Force Video to Counteract Dr. Strangelove

A recently-discovered video produced in 1963 by the US Air Force titled "SAC Command Post" appears to have been made explicitly to belittle the possibility of an unauthorized strike like the one depicted in the film *Dr. Strangelove*.

The 18-minute Air Force film was never released to the public. The film includes a tour of the Strategic Air Command's underground control center near Omaha and mentions that several measures have been taken to allow control center operations to continue even during a nuclear attack.

To watch "SAC Command Post," [click here](#).

Everly, Steve, "[Air Force Film Was a Cold War Attack on 'Dr. Strangelove'](#)," *Kansas City Star*, January 21, 2010.

### Hunters Cause Lockdown at Nuclear Weapons Facility

Two duck hunters in camouflage outfits caused a lockdown at a US nuclear weapons facility in Texas. The hunters, who were carrying guns, were on the grounds of the Pantex Plant, which is the only US facility for the assembly and disassembly of nuclear weapons.

"[Duck Hunters Cause Alarm at Nuclear Weapons Facility](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, January 20, 2010.

## Missile Defense

### US to Go Ahead With Missile Defenses in Poland

The United States intends to field Patriot air- and missile-defense systems in northern Poland, about 35 miles from the border with Russia. The Patriot missiles had been sought by Warsaw and are being deployed following a major revision to the US program for missile defense in Europe, which now emphasizes using sea- and land-based versions of the Standard Missile 3 as a hedge against short- and medium-range missiles fired from Iran.

Moscow-based security studies expert Alexei Fenenko said the decision to locate missiles in Poland has renewed old worries over the reasoning for enhanced NATO defenses close to Russian territory.

"[US Missile Defenses to be Fielded Near Russian Border](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, January 21, 2010.

## Nuclear Energy and Waste

### Toxic Waste Dump Refuses Radioactive Materials

The largest toxic dump in the western US has refused a shipment of radioactive soil from the site of a partial nuclear meltdown near Los Angeles.

The Santa Susana Field Laboratory on the outskirts of Los Angeles experienced a partial nuclear reactor meltdown in 1959. The San Joaquin toxic waste dump located in Kettleman City, CA refused the shipment "because of the uncertainty and community concerns about levels of radioactive constituents in these materials."

Schwartz, Noaki, "[Toxic Waste Facility Refuses to Take Radioactive Waste From Partial Nuclear Meltdown Site](#)," *Associated Press*, January 14, 2010.

## War and Peace

### Double Hibakusha Dies

Tsutomu Yamaguchi, the only official survivor of both atomic blasts to hit Japan in World War II, died Monday in Nagasaki, Japan. He was 93. Mr. Yamaguchi, then 29 years old, was in Hiroshima on a business trip when the United States dropped the first atomic bomb on the morning of August 6, 1945.

Mr. Yamaguchi said he was less than two miles away from ground zero that day. His eardrums were ruptured and his upper torso was burned by the blast, which destroyed most of the city's buildings and killed tens of thousands of people. He then returned home to Nagasaki to be with his family. The United States dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki on August 9.

There were believed to have been about 165 twice-bombed people, known as *nijyuu hibakusha*, although municipal officials in both cities have said that Mr. Yamaguchi was the only person to be officially acknowledged as such.

Mr. Yamaguchi rarely gave interviews, but he wrote a memoir and was part of a 2006 documentary about the double bombing survivors. He called for the abolition of nuclear weapons at a showing of the documentary, "Niju Hibaku" ("Twice Bombed"), at the United Nations that year.

McDonald, Mark, "[Tsutomu Yamaguchi, Survivor of 2 Atomic Blasts, Dies at 93](#)," *The New York Times*, January 6, 2010.

## Iraq War

### Dutch Inquiry Rules Iraq War Illegal

An independent inquiry in the Netherlands has found that the 2003 invasion of Iraq had "no basis in international law." The report was chaired by former Dutch supreme court judge Willibrord Davids.

The inquiry found that when the Dutch government decided in August 2002 to support the attack on Iraq it treated intelligence about WMD and the legality of an invasion as "subservient." The Dutch cabinet's policy was laid out in a 45-minute meeting and came at a time when the newly elected prime minister, Jan Peter Balkenende, was preoccupied with domestic concerns, it said.

Hirsch, Afua, "[Iraq Invasion Violated International Law, Dutch Inquiry Finds](#)," *The Guardian*, January 12, 2010.

## Resources

### Peace Heroes

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has collected essays about dozens of inspiring peace heroes from throughout history. [Click here](#) to read about these peace heroes.

One of the featured peace heroes, Mordechai Vanunu, was recently arrested in Israel after speaking with a foreigner. Vanunu was jailed for 18 years for revealing Israel's nuclear secrets in the 1980s and continues to live under oppressive restrictions to this day. [Click here](#) to read NAPF Distinguished Fellow Daniel Ellsberg's recent article about Mordechai Vanunu.

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### The University of Nuclear Bombs

Two Santa Barbara-based filmmakers will present the world premiere of their documentary, "The University of Nuclear Bombs," at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival on February 6.

The film uncovers the University of California's long role as manager of the United States' two main nuclear weapons laboratories. The film, directed and produced by Joshua King Ortiz and Mohamed Elswawi, examines the history and implications of the UC's involvement, the reasons for it and the direct impact that the University has had on national and international nuclear weapons policy from World War II to the present day.

To view a trailer of the film, [click here](#).

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### William Stafford: A Voice for Peace

Poet William Stafford was a conscientious objector during World War II. A wonderful 32-minute documentary video, *Every War Has Two Losers*, has been done of his life as a writer and man of peace. The video, directed

by Haydn Reiss, includes commentary by Robert Bly, W.S. Merwin and Alice Walker, among others.

Stafford, who lived from 1914 to 1993, is revealed as a down to earth man and artist, who was a voice for peace and simple decency. The video is available online from [Amazon](#), as are many of Stafford's poetry books.

## Foundation Activities

### 2010 Swackhamer Video Contest Now Accepting Entries

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is proud to announce the 2010 Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest. The contest is open to people of all ages. Contestants will submit videos of three minutes or less addressing the following topic:

*Early in the Nuclear Age, Albert Einstein stated: "The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking and we thus drift toward unparalleled catastrophe." 1. In what ways does humanity have to change its "modes of thinking" in order to survive and come together? 2. How can we avert the catastrophe that Einstein foresaw?*

Cash prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 will be awarded. In addition, the winning videos will be shown at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference at the United Nations in May. Entries are due by April 1. For full contest details, [click here](#).

### Peace Leadership Program Update

The Peace Leadership Program got off to a strong start in the month of January, with its first chapter at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Dozens of students attended the first two meetings of the UCSB chapter. Enthusiasm for the program is great among the students. [Click here](#) to read the short speech delivered by Peace Leadership Program Director Paul Chappell at the UCSB chapter's first meeting.

Our goal is to get the Peace Leadership Program into colleges, high schools and activist groups around the country. If you are interested in using our training in peace leadership or starting a program chapter in your area, please contact Paul Chappell at [pchappell@napf.org](mailto:pchappell@napf.org).

### Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future

Ambassador Max Kampelman will deliver the 9th Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future on February 25 at 7:00 pm at Santa Barbara City College, Fé Bland Forum, 721 Cliff Drive.

Ambassador Kampelman was chief arms control negotiator for President Reagan with the Soviet Union. He will speak on "Zero Nuclear Weapons for a Sane and Sustainable World."

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at (805) 965-3443.

## Quotes

"The alligator people did not scream. Their mouths could not form the sounds. The noise they made was worse than screaming. They uttered a continuous murmur - like locusts on a midsummer night. One man, staggering on charred stumps of legs, was carrying a dead baby upside down."

-- An excerpt from **Charles Pellegrino's** new book *The Last Train from Hiroshima*. The "alligator people" to whom he refers were people who were severely injured and disfigured by the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima by the United States on August 6, 1945.

"Children look like burnt paper. Black, not moving. And then the blast wave hits them. And they fly apart like leaves."

-- A character in **James Cameron's** *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*, describing the effects of a nuclear explosion. Cameron has just purchased the film rights to the book *The Last Train from Hiroshima* about survivors of the atomic bombing.

"Revolutionary change does not come as one cataclysmic moment...but as an endless succession of surprises, moving zigzag toward a more decent society. We don't have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate in the process of change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world."

-- Prominent American Historian **Howard Zinn**, who passed away on January 27 at the age of 87.

## Editorial Team

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