

# THE SUN *flower*

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upon an important tradeoff. The non-nuclear weapons states agree not to develop or acquire nuclear weapons, and the nuclear weapons states agree to engage in good faith negotiations for nuclear disarmament.

To read the full article, please visit: [http://www.waging-peace.org/articles/2005/03/00\\_krieger\\_saving-nuclear-agreement.htm](http://www.waging-peace.org/articles/2005/03/00_krieger_saving-nuclear-agreement.htm)

### **MISSILE COUNTER-ATTACK OPEN LETTER TO US SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEEZZA RICE**

by Lloyd Axworthy, March 4, 2005

Dear Condi,

I'm glad you've decided to get over your fit of pique and venture north to visit your closest neighbour. It's a chance to learn a thing or two. Maybe more.

I know it seems improbable to your divinely guided master in the White House that mere mortals might disagree with participating in a missile-defence system that has failed in its last three tests, even though the tests themselves were carefully rigged to show results.

But, gosh, we folks above the 49th parallel are somewhat cautious types who can't quite see laying down billions of dollars in a three-dud poker game.

As our erstwhile Prairie-born and bred (and therefore prudent) finance minister pointed out in presenting his recent budget, we've had eight years of balanced or surplus financial accounts. If we're going to spend money, Mr. Goodale added, it will be on day-care and health programs, and even on more foreign aid and improved defence.

Sure, that doesn't match the gargantuan, multi-billion-dollar deficits that your government blithely runs up fighting a "liberation war" in Iraq, laying out more than half of all weapons expenditures in the world, and giving massive tax breaks to the top one per cent of your population while cutting food programs for poor children.

Just chalk that up to a different sense of priorities about what a national government's role should be when there isn't a prevailing mood of manifest destiny.

To read the full article, please visit: [http://www.waging-peace.org/articles/2005/03/05\\_axworthy\\_missile-counter-attack.htm](http://www.waging-peace.org/articles/2005/03/05_axworthy_missile-counter-attack.htm)

## *Perspectives*

### **SAVING THE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION AGREEMENT**

by David Krieger

North Korea's recent announcement that it has manufactured nuclear weapons highlights the precarious nature of the global nonproliferation regime and particularly the failure of the Bush administration's approach to the problem. In an official statement, North Korea indicated that the impetus for its actions was "the Bush administration's increasingly hostile policy." In fact, the Bush administration has dragged its feet for more than four years and made inadequate efforts to provide either security assurances or development aid to North Korea in exchange for halting its nuclear program.

Yet it is widely agreed on all sides of the political spectrum that preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons is the most important item on the U.S. national security agenda. This was the one point that President Bush and Sen. John Kerry could agree upon in their presidential debate on foreign policy.

At the center of the nonproliferation regime is the 1970 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). What most Americans don't know is that this treaty is based

# Take Action

## DEAR WORLD

In an effort to create a venue for average citizens to share their beliefs and sentiments regarding long term security for the world, the Secure World Foundation has begun a letter to world at [www.DearWorldLetter.org](http://www.DearWorldLetter.org). They have provided their hopes for the course that the US could take to ensure lasting world security, and now they are asking for other Americans to express their vision and sentiments with people of other nations.

To create an incentive for people to join the conversation, cash prizes of \$2,000 for 1st place, \$1,000 for 2nd, and \$500 for 3rd will be awarded by 10 April to the best "letters to the world."

Please write your own letter, and encourage your colleagues, friends and families to join us in letting the world know that we want to share in creating a peaceful and secure world for generations to come.

## WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR ON NUCLEAR PRIORITIES IN THE 2006 BUDGET!

On 7 February 2005, President Bush put forth his proposal for the 2006 Budget. Specifically, the Department of Energy's (DoE) budget request for 2006 may be less overall than last year, but the proposed funds for nuclear weapons are up. In addition, money requested for environmental cleanup is less than for 2005.

Visit <http://capwiz.com/wagingpeace/issues/alert/?alertid=6969681&type=ME> to take action now and send a letter to the editor on key topics including the nuclear bunker buster, environmental cleanup, the new nuclear bomb plant (Modern Pit Facility) and Yucca Mountain to help citizens respond effectively to the federal budget request. More details on the budget are available on the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability website (<http://www.ananuclear.org/>). If your letter gets published, please let us know by sending an email to Carah Ong at [cong@napf.org](mailto:cong@napf.org).

The following are key highlights from the Budget prepared by the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability. (<http://www.ananuclear.org/>)

### TALKING POINTS: Nuclear Weapons, Environmental Management and Waste Disposal in the Energy Department's FY06 Budget Request

**Funding for nuclear weapons should be reduced, but it goes up to \$6.63 billion in FY06, a \$46.7 million increase from the prior year.** This level is more than one and a half times the amount the U.S. spent on average during the Cold War and is wholly unnecessary to preserving the safety of the nation's nuclear arsenal.

**Funding for environmental cleanup and waste management should be maintained, but it is cut \$548 million dollars, a 7.8 percent drop from the prior year.** The Department of Energy (DOE) has abandoned its earlier commitment to transfer resources from closure sites to those awaiting closure in favor of cutting funding and accelerating DOE out of the cleanup business. The largest cuts are at the most contaminated sites -- Hanford and Savannah River -- where essential water resources are threatened.

**Funding for environmental cleanup and waste management at seven weapons sites should be maintained, but is cut by about \$18 million, a more than 9 percent drop.** In addition, a new Office of Environmental Projects and Operations in the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), the semi-autonomous body within the DOE is responsible for nuclear weapons, would take over those sites. NNSA should pay for cleanup of newly generated wastes but the Office of Environmental Management (EM) should maintain responsibility for cleanup as the office with developed expertise, the single point of contact within DOE on cleanup, and because EM's culture of secrecy is less severe than NNSA's.

**Funding for the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator should be eliminated, but the request includes \$8.5 million for the program, \$4 million through the NNSA and \$4.5 million through the Air Force for drop tests.**

Congress zeroed out funding for this project in FY05 and the Pentagon has yet to issue a military requirement for the weapon. The RNEP is not a low-yield nuclear weapon and will cause massive collateral damage. Pushing new nuclear weapons undermines our nonproliferation objectives.

**Funding for the Reliable Replacement Warhead is \$9.35 million and should be canceled.** This new project aims to produce a new design warhead with a longer shelf-life without testing. ANA and other arms control groups are concerned this new weapon could lead to new missions, expanded production, and a return to full-scale testing. Further, it signals to the world that the U.S. never intends to honor its obligation under the NonProliferation Treaty to eventually disarm its nuclear stockpile.

**Funding for warhead dismantlement should be bolstered but NNSA requests only \$35.2 million** for the Retired Warhead Stockpile Systems account and fails to report that Congress awarded \$75 million for dismantlement in FY05, showing only \$35 million allocated for the present fiscal year. NNSA budget projections for dismantlement show a steady decline over the next five years, rather than ramping up to meet the requirements under the Moscow Treaty.

**Funding should be cut for Life Extension Programs (\$348 million) and Stockpile Systems (\$311.8 million), the programs that upgrade and modernize warheads.** Instead, the priority should be on dismantlement which is crowded out by Life Extension programs performed at the same facilities at Pantex, near Amarillo, Texas and Y-12 in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

**Funding should be struck for the Modern Pit Facility (MPF), a new nuclear bomb plant for which NNSA requests \$7.6 million for in FY06.** This is an increase above the \$7 million awarded after Congress cut the Administration's \$30 million request in FY05. NNSA wants to spend \$125.7 million on the MPF over the next five years. A new bomb plant is unnecessary as the arsenal continues to be certified as safe and reliable. Building a new bomb plant for mass production of existing pits and future new-design pits undermines our nonproliferation objectives.

**The \$25 million requested to enhance the readiness of the Nevada Test Site to conduct underground nuclear testing within 18 months should be canceled.** Last year Congress rejected the NNSA's effort to shorten the lead time in which to return to full-scale testing from 24 months to 18. The U.S. should ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty rather than accelerating the momentum towards resuming testing and undermining global nonproliferation norms.

**Tritium production in Tennessee's Watts Bar commercial nuclear power plant should stop and the \$87.6 million for producing tritium and maintaining the current tritium inventory should be cut.** This is an increase from FY05's level of \$79.1 million and is unneeded given the dramatic reduction in tritium production at Watts Bar. Future reductions to actively deployed nuclear weapons will both lower the overall need for tritium and offer opportunities to recycle existing tritium from retired weapons. Producing weapons grade materials in a commercial reactor is hypocritical given our firm opposition to this activity in other nations.

**Funding for the construction of the National Ignition Facility (NIF) is \$141.9 million and should be cut.** This level is an increase from \$129 million the prior year and adds to the \$4 plus billion cost overrun of the project. The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, where NIF is based, wants to perform additional plutonium experiments not in the NIF baseline, an added provocative mission which Congress should debate.

**DOE's request of \$651.4 million for Yucca Mountain should be cut.** The request includes \$351.4 million through the defense nuclear waste disposal account and another \$300 million through the nuclear waste disposal account. This represents an increase of \$79 million over FY05, but a lower amount than was requested in FY05 due to legal battles over institutional controls and a delay in the license application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). DOE hopes to submit its license application to the NRC by December.

**Funding should be cut for NNSA's FY06 request of \$338.6 million for the MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility and \$24 million for the Plutonium Disassembly and Conversion Facility.** This request comes despite over \$700 million remaining unspent from prior years due to delays in starting construction of these projects over dis-

putes with Russia over liability issues in the plutonium disposition program there. Meanwhile, DOE's Environmental Management program includes \$10 million for the initial conception design of a new Plutonium Disposition Facility to enable the immobilization of plutonium stored at Savannah River Site that cannot be converted into mixed oxide fuel.

## Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

### NOBEL LAUREATES APPEAL FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

February 17, 2005

Excerpt from a letter from Jack Steinberger:

I have pleasure in enclosing a copy of a Nobel Laureates' Statement that has been drafted by the Abolition Now! campaign at my initiation. I am deeply concerned that in this year of the 60th Anniversaries of the atomic bombings, the world stands at the brink of a renewed nuclear crisis of incalculable proportions. All of us need to speak out before it is too late. In May, the world's governments will gather at the United Nations in New York to review the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). This statement is a call for them to use this opportunity to begin serious negotiations to rid the world of nuclear weapons once and for all.

Led by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Mayors for Peace Emergency Campaign is mobilizing support from all sectors of society worldwide for this goal. Nobel Laureates can add to this growing campaign by publicly identifying themselves with this call for sanity. If you would like more information about the Mayors for Peace Emergency Campaign and Abolition Now!, please look at the website at [www.abolitionnow.org](http://www.abolitionnow.org) or contact Monika Szymurska at [monika@abolitionnow.org](mailto:monika@abolitionnow.org).

We are approaching Nobel Laureates from each discipline, not just peace laureates. In this Einstein Year it is clear that all of us have a responsibility to speak out for the highest aspirations of humanity for a peaceful future. Thank you for reading this letter and for considering the statement.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Steinberger  
Nobel Physics Laureate 1988

To read the Nobel Laureates Appeal, please visit:  
[http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2005/03/00\\_nobel-laureates-appeal-disarmament.htm](http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2005/03/00_nobel-laureates-appeal-disarmament.htm)

## **NORTH KOREA ANNOUNCES NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THREATENS TO RESUME MISSILE TESTS**

Demonstrating concern about North Korea's first public announcement in early February 2005 that it has a nuclear weapons program, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors agreed to a "chairman's conclusion" on 2 March in the final item of business during its four-day, quarterly meeting. According to the Statement, "The board strongly encouraged all the parties concerned to redouble their efforts to facilitate an early resumption of the six-party talks ... and urged particularly the D.P.R.K. to agree to the resumption of the six-party talks at an early date without preconditions."

The IAEA Board of Governors has routinely urged North Korea to resume cooperation with the agency, but such calls have had little effect, particularly since the country announced its withdrawal from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 2003. In December 2002, North Korea expelled IAEA officials after the US accused the country of pursuing uranium enrichment capability. US officials have claimed that North Korean officials admitted to such a program, but no public acknowledgement was made prior to the February announcement.

Meanwhile, North Korea indicated on 2 March it might end its six-year suspension of long-range missile tests. The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) quoted a Foreign Ministry statement as saying North Korea was no longer bound by a testing moratorium reached during nonproliferation talks with the US under the Clinton administration in 1999. According to the report, "There is now no binding force for us on the moratorium on missile testing. We are not legally bound by an international treaty, or anything else on the missile issue."

According to the report, North Korea also demanded an apology for being labeled an "outpost of tyranny" and a member of the "axis of evil," along with Iran and Iraq under Saddam Hussein. An English-language version of the KCNA report, however, did not mention missile tests and suggested instead North Korea's potential return to six-party talks on its nuclear program "if the US takes a trustworthy and sincere attitude."

US State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli responded to the report saying that the place for North Korea's request for an apology is in the six-party talks involving China, Japan, North Korea, Russia, South Korea and the United States. Ereli stated, "There is no good reason why all states, including North Korea, shouldn't return to the six-party talks. If they have questions or issues that they want addressed then that's the place to do it."

According to Japanese government Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda, North Korea is likely to agree to resume talks soon. "We think it is edging closer to being persuaded by other countries," he said.

While China has advocated for bilateral talks between the US and North Korea in addition to the six-party talks, on 7 March the US reiterated its opposition to conducting direct talks with North Korea. White House spokesman Scott McClellan stated, "We've ... made it very clear that if there is a need for North Korea to talk with us, they have the opportunity to do that in the context of the six-party talks."

*Sources: AFP, 7 March 2005; AFP, 3 March 2005; Global Security Newswire, 2 March 2005; Reuters, 2 March 2005.*

## **PAKISTAN HAD NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY IN 1988, BUT NO WEAPON**

On 4 March, the Press Trust of India reported that former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said that while Pakistan had a nuclear weapons capability by 1988, her government chose not to make an actual weapon at the time. In an interview with Voice of America, Bhutto stated, "When I became prime minister, I was told we had not put together the bomb. We had the components of the bomb. And although we had the components of a nuclear weapon, we took the conscious decision not to put together a nuclear weapon."

*Source: Press Trust of India, 4 March 2005.*

## **UKRAINIAN AUTHORITIES ARREST MAN FOUND WITH URANIUM**

The Ukrainian Emergencies Ministry announced on 2 March that authorities arrested a man found in possession of more than 500 grams of uranium 238. Officers detained the man at Boryspil airport in Kiev. According to the ministry, he was found with a case containing 582 grams of the radioactive material in his car. They did not say when the arrest occurred.

*Source: Reuters, 2 March 2005.*

## CANADA FORMALLY REJECTS MISSILE DEFENSE COOPERATION

On 24 February, Canada officially announced it would not join the US in operating a continental missile defense program. Polls showed that two-thirds of Canadians opposed involvement in the missile defense effort, and Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin faced strong opposition to cooperation within his Liberal Party. The decision marked a reversal for Prime Minister Martin who had campaigned on promises to join the controversial US missile defense program.

Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew announced in Parliament, "After careful consideration of the issue, we have decided that Canada will not participate in the US ballistic missile defense system." He added that the decision would not "in any way" hurt relations between the neighbors, including continued cooperation under NORAD.

Prime Minister Martin said Canada's focus would be on other efforts to strengthen its military. He stated, "Canada recognizes the enormous burden that the United States shoulders, when it comes to international peace and security. The substantial increases made yesterday to our defense budget are a tangible indication that Canada intends to carry its full share of that responsibility."

*Sources: The Globe and Mail, 24 February 2005; AP, 24 February 2005.*

## NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE INTERCEPT TEST FAILS

On 14 February, an interceptor failed to launch in a test of the US missile defense system. The test was set to involve a missile interceptor hitting a mock ICBM launched from Alaska. While the target ICBM successfully launched, the interceptor did not leave its silo on the Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.

Joint Chiefs Chairman General Richard Myers told Congress on 17 February that the failure was caused by a tiny switch which did not close, signaling that they had not come clear of the missile. In a hearing of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Myers stated, "They don't think that's a systemic issue, but it's one they are going to have to deal with, nevertheless."

US Missile Defense Agency (MDA) spokesman Rick Lehner said similar arms are used in all missile silos to prevent the missiles from tipping over in an earthquake. He said an investigation into the failed launch is going forward in case the arm issue was not the fundamental cause.

This is the second failed test of the controversial system since December. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) expressed renewed criticism of the system and questioned General Myers and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing. Clinton stated, "It strikes me as a little odd that we would deploy a system that hasn't succeeded and expect that to serve a deterrent value." Rumsfeld responded, "I agree with that point, that there's no deterrent if something is known to not work." Rumsfeld also said he supported the concept of having operationally capable missiles in Alaska and California even while testing was going forward, calling it "a measured approach to a complicated problem."

*Sources: AP, 8, 14 & 17 February 2005.*

## MID-COURSE MISSILE DEFENSE TEST NEAR HAWAII

On 24 February, the US Missile Defense Agency (MDA) launched a Standard Missile (SM-3) interceptor from the USS Lake Erie to knock down a mock warhead fired from the Barking Sands missile range on the island of Kauai. According to Richard Lehner, a spokesman for the MDA, "We had a successful hit-to-kill intercept." The MDA said it was the fifth success in a series of six similar tests conducted in the region for the mid-course missile defense system.

In related news, Japan and the United States began talks in early February to move the ongoing joint development of a missile defense system to the development stage. According to a Pentagon official, the talks came after the Department of Defense decided to embark on the development of an enhanced version of its independently developed Standard Missile 3 interceptor in fiscal year 2007. Until now, the two nations have only been jointly researching the enhanced version.

*Source: CBC News, 25 February 2005; Kyodo News, 8 February 2005.*

## **BUSH ADMINISTRATION REDUCES MISSILE DEFENSE FUNDING IN BUDGET REQUEST**

In its fiscal 2006 (FY '06) budget request submitted on 6 February, the Bush administration called for cutting missile defense spending by \$5 billion over the next six years. For FY '06, the Bush administration has requested \$7.8 billion for the Missile Defense Agency, down from \$8.8 billion it received for FY '05. The request would also reduce the MDA budget by \$800 a year for the next five years.

According to a senior MDA official, the sea-based Kinetic Energy Interceptor, which is intended to intercept an enemy ballistic missile in its boost phase, will be cut by \$800 million in FY '06 and will receive reduced funding through at least 2008. The official also said that the proposed budget reductions do not indicate that President Bush has reduced his support for missile defense. The MDA official said, "We have no indication of that, and we'll just make do with the dollars that are provided. This program has been treated very well over the last several years by the president, the secretary of defense and certainly by the Congress and I see no reason why that support will diminish."

*Source: AFP, 7 February 2005.*

## **RUSSIA PROPOSES, THEN RETRACTS, TREATY WITHDRAWAL**

According to a Financial Times report on 8 March, Russia recently suggested to the US that it might withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, but later backed away from the idea. Under the 1987 INF treaty, the United States and Soviet Union were required to permanently dispose of nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 kilometers. The treaty also bars future development of such missiles.

According to the Financial Times, in January, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov asked US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld how the Bush administration would react if Moscow withdrew from the pact. A US official and a Russian source said that Rumsfeld did not object to the idea. Pentagon spokesman Larry Di Rita, however, denied that the department raised no objection. Di Rita stated, "The US is a signatory and it is a treaty that is serving a useful purpose. The issue arose in the context of general discussion and the secretary said that it was an issue for the interagency (process), it was not a (Pentagon) issue."

A Russian source said that a Russian Foreign Ministry delegation later traveled to Washington to withdraw the proposal. The Defense and State Departments refused to confirm whether the proposal had been withdrawn.

*Sources: Financial Times, 8 March 2005; Global Security Newswire, 9 March 2005.*

## *Nuclear Energy & Waste*

### **ILLEGAL NUCLEAR WASTE DUMPED ON SOMALI SHORES ENDANGERS THOUSANDS**

The 26 December 2004 Asian tsunami has scattered Somalia's illegally dumped nuclear wastes across the country. The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) released the report *After the Tsunami: Rapid Environmental Assessment*, which provides a preliminary ground-level look at the tsunami's impact on various sectors of the region's environment.

Although international treaties prohibit the export of hazardous waste to Somalia, countless illegal shipments of nuclear and toxic waste has been dumped along the Somali coastline since 1980. Nick Nuttall, spokesman for UNEP, explained that European companies and others have used Somalia as a dumping ground for a wide array of nuclear and hazardous wastes. The UNEP report finds that uranium radioactive waste, lead, cadmium, mercury, industrial, hospital and chemical wastes have been illegally dumped along the Somali coastline.

When the tsunami hit on 26 December 2004, contamination and radioactivity was stirred up causing numerous health and environmental problems. The tsunami's power broke barrels and waste containers. Groundwater as well as fishing communities have been contaminated. Unusual health problems are arising, such as acute respiratory infections, heavy coughing and bleeding from the mouth, abdominal hemorrhages, unusual skin conditions, and sudden death after inhaling toxic materials.

Nuttall said the reason there is so much illegal waste on Somalia's beaches is that it only costs European companies \$2.50 per ton rather than \$250 per ton to properly dispose of the wastes in Europe. "It's not rocket science to know why they're doing it," Nuttall stated. Somalia is vulnerable to illegal dumping because the country has been without an effective central government since 1991. The Somali coast isn't defended by a coast guard and health officials and facilities are not in place to monitor environmental safety.

*Sources: Voice of America, 23 February 2005; United Nations Environment Programme.*

### **IRAN AND RUSSIA REACH NUCLEAR ENERGY AGREEMENT**

On 27 February 2005, Alexander Rumyantsev, Minister of the Russian Federation for Atomic Energy, and Gholamreza Aghazadeh, Iranian Vice-President and Head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, reached an agreement on Iran's Bushehr nuclear reactor. The agreement paves the way for the reactor's construction and a supply of Russian nuclear fuel. International pressure forced the agreement to include a clause whereby Iran must return spent nuclear fuel from the Bushehr reactor to Russia. The clause serves as a safeguard, ensuring Iran does not extract plutonium from fuel for use in the development of a nuclear weapons program.

After signing the agreement to repatriate the Russian fuel, Rummyantsev stressed the reactor will not improve Iran's capability to produce nuclear weapons. Emphasizing their commitment to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) supervision, Russian ambassador Alexander Maryasov said, "There will be no grounds to state that Iran may use nuclear fuel other than [for] peaceful purposes." However, some analysts predict Bushehr could produce one quarter ton of plutonium per year, enough to make about 30 nuclear bombs.

According to Russian diplomats, the deal to construct and supply the Bushehr reactor with fuel has virtually saved Russia's atomic energy industry. The Bushehr reactor alone is worth \$800 million and supplying fuel will generate about \$20 million for Russia. Beyond economic purposes, the Bushehr project provides Russia with enormous amounts of diplomatic ammunition. If Russia had abandoned the project under international pressure, diplomatic relations with Iran would have been destroyed and would have damaged Russia's reputation in the region. Vladimir Evseev, the Nonproliferation Program Coordinator at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Moscow Center, says that Russia is pushing ahead with the Bushehr project "to prove that it's not only got a lot of natural resources for export, but that it is also one of the world's most advanced nuclear powers."

Recent revelations that Abdul Qadeer Khan's nuclear black market provided Iranian scientists with complete uranium enrichment know-how in the 1980s have surprised and alarmed opponents of the Iran-Russia agreement. The US has also vociferously raised alarm that Iran could reprocess spent Russian fuel, making plutonium suitable for use in weapons.

Presently the Bushehr reactor is 80% complete. Following the 27 February agreement, Russia will increase its number of nuclear experts in order to finish construction. Analysts predict that Russian fuel will be delivered in early 2006 and that the Bushehr reactor will come online in late 2005 and reach full capacity in October 2006.

*Sources: Aljazeera, 17 February 2005; Reuters, 24 February 2005; Associated Press, 27 February 2005; CBC News, 28 February 2005; Agence France Presse, 26 February, 1 March 2005; Peoples Daily Online, 2 March 2005.*

## GLOBAL PUSH FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY

The International Atomic Energy Agency is projecting that by 2020 at least 60 new nuclear power plants will come online. Worldwide there are presently some 30 countries operating a total of 441 nuclear power plants with 27 new plants under construction. The greatest demand for nuclear power is in Asia where India plans a ten-fold increase in its nuclear electricity capacity and China plans a six-fold increase.

China aims to reduce its dependency on coal and to move to the forefront of nuclear energy research. The country recently announced that it will construct four multi-billion dollar nuclear power plants in the coming years in Eastern Shandong and northeastern Jilin as part of China's ambition

to increase its nuclear generating capacity to 36,000 megawatts by 2020, up from the current 8,700 megawatts. An experimental 195 megawatt gas-cooled pebble-bed reactor to be constructed in Weihai promises to move China's nuclear energy industry to the forefront of the global market. Proponents of the reactor are saying it will be both meltdown and proliferation-proof.

In consideration of the expected worldwide increase in energy demand, Canada, France, Japan, the UK and the US signed the Framework Agreement for International Collaboration on Research and Development of Generation IV Nuclear Energy Systems on 28 February 2005. The agreement calls for long-range coordinated research on the development of so-called Generation IV nuclear power generation technology: gas-cooled fast reactor systems, lead-cooled fast reactor systems, molten salt reactors, super-critical-water cooled reactors and very high temperature reactors. In the coming months Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, South Korea and Switzerland, along with Euratom are expected to sign the agreement.

Proponents of the global push attribute the spiking demand for nuclear energy to the Kyoto Protocol which commits countries to cleaner environmental standards. The argument pushes nuclear power as an environmentally friendly energy source that produces virtually no greenhouse gases. This line of discussion considers nuclear power as the most attractive source where energy demand is growing rapidly, alternative resources are scarce and energy supply security is a priority. Unfortunately this line of thinking doesn't account for the untold sums of greenhouse gases expended in the mining and preparation of nuclear fuel and reactor construction. Additionally, supporters of the global nuclear energy push are not considering long-term environmental problems associated with spent fuel, radioactive waste byproducts and the existence of waste accumulating at sites around the world.

*Sources: Agence France Presse, 24, 28 February 2005; UN News Service, 2 March 2005.*

## UNACCOUNTED PLUTONIUM IN THE UK

On 17 February 2005, an annual audit of the UK's Sellafield nuclear fuel reprocessing plant revealed that 30 kilograms of plutonium cannot be accounted for. The loss is embarrassing for British Nuclear Fuels which operates the Sellafield fuel reprocessing plant.

Making matters even worse, British officials are assuaging concerns about the unaccounted plutonium - enough material for about seven nuclear weapons - with assurances that inconsistencies in the accounting process are normal. A whole range of public agencies are responding to the news of the unaccounted plutonium. A British Department of Trade and Industry spokesman said, "It is not unusual for the accounting process to indicate material unaccounted for." A spokesman for the British Nuclear Group chimed in, "There is no suggestion that any material has left the site. When you have got a complicated chemical procedure, quite often material remains in the plant." And, a statement from the UK

Atomic Energy Authority's read, "The material unaccounted for 2003-2004 were all within international standards of expected measurement accuracies..."

At least the public can rest easy knowing their complacent officials are satisfied with the status quo.

*Sources: London Times, 17 February 2005; Agence France Presse, 17 February 2005; Global Security Newswire, 18 February 2005.*

## **SKULL VALLEY NUCLEAR DUMP MOVING AHEAD**

A 24 February 2005 judgment clears the way for a decision by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to grant a license for Utah's Skull Valley nuclear waste dump. According to the judgment, concrete waste storage casks provide sufficient protection against a crashing jet aircraft. Skull Valley is administered by the Goshute Indians, who number just 124 people. Because of few economic opportunities, some of the Goshutes have entered into the nuclear waste storage deal with Private Fuel Storage (PFS) of Delaware. Should the facility be approved, the Goshutes will lease land to PFS for the temporary storage of 40,000 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel.

The state of Utah strongly opposes the nuclear storage plan. Utah, backed by environmental groups, argues the facility is an accident waiting to happen. Opponents believe the proposed \$125 million facility, which will store waste above ground only 50 miles west of Salt Lake City, is too vulnerable to airborne attack and too close to a major population center. Additionally, Utah officials are convinced Skull Valley would become a permanent waste storage facility as nuclear reactors across the country continue to create waste.

The nuclear waste storage facility would not be the only toxic place in Skull Valley. A military nerve gas facility is east of the reservation and a coal-fired power plant is on the southern border. Some of the Goshutes welcome the waste storage facility because it promises to employ tribal members. They argue it will generate enough revenue to add land to their reservation, to build new housing, and to construct a water reservoir. However, not all of the tribe is in agreement and those who disagree have been silenced in corporate media and in dealings with Private Fuel Storage.

*Sources: Nuclear Regulatory Commission News, 24 February 2005; New York Times, 28 February 2005; SkullValleyGoshutes.org.*

## **US, RUSSIAN MIXED OXIDE FUEL PROJECT DELAYED**

On 7 February 2005, the Department of Energy announced the delay of a 1998 agreement to convert 70 tons of weapons-grade plutonium into fuel for commercial reactors. Because of a liability dispute between US and Russian officials, construction of the \$1.5 billion plant at the Savannah River Site has been delayed at least a year.

The 1998 agreement calls for both the US and Russia to

eliminate 34 tons of plutonium through conversion to Mixed Oxide Fuel (MOX), for use in commercial nuclear reactors. At the heart of the delay is a dispute about liabilities for US nonproliferation projects at Russian facilities. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice promises a new US proposal can resolve the dispute, although she did not provide details.

The delays make it impossible to open the US plant by 2009 as originally scheduled. It also remains unclear whether or how Ed Siskin's resignation as chief of the National Nuclear Security Administration's Office of Fissile Material Disposition, which manages the US-Russian plutonium disposition program, is related to the stalled MOX project.

Tom Clements, senior advisor with Greenpeace International, praised the Department of Energy (DoE) for disclosing the delays. "The modus operandi of DoE has been to hide the truth about the MOX program, so we welcome a new approach based on honesty. Perhaps this is a signal that the new secretary will conduct DoE affairs in a way which is more open and accountable to Congress and the taxpayer."

*Sources: Associate Press, 10 February 2005; Global Security Newswire, 18 February 2005.*

## **YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT CHIEF RESIGNS**

Effective 25 February 2005, Margaret Chu will no longer serve as director of the US Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management and head of the Yucca Mountain waste repository project. Chu announced her resignation was due to personal circumstances.

Chu's departure will not likely change the Bush administration's push for the Yucca waste repository. Nor will her departure push the project any further behind schedule. Before announcing her resignation, Chu said that the Yucca site will probably open in 2012, if at all.

In related news regarding Yucca Mountain, on 4 March 2005, members of the Western Shoshone National Council filed a federal law suit against the Departments of Energy and the Interior, hoping to stop the government from building the national nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain. Members of the Western Shoshone National Council cited reverence for the land and the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley which recognized vast stretches of territory in present-day Nevada, California, Utah and Idaho as tribal land. Western Shoshone Chief Raymond Yowell said, "Mother Earth is sacred to the Shoshone and is not to be hurt by us. That is not negotiable."

*Sources: Associated Press, 4 March 2005; Associated Press, 11 February 2005.*

## **ACCIDENTS PLAGUE US NUCLEAR INDUSTRY**

On 10 February 2005, radioactive tritium leaked at the Watts Bar nuclear power plant during maintenance work on pipes for the waste discharge system. Tennessee Valley Authority officials and US Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesmen assured the public that the radioactivity was contained to the site and no threat was posed to the public.

Days later on 12 February, about 300 gallons of nitric acid leaked from a Richland, Washington low-level radioactive waste treatment plant. The nitric acid itself was slightly radioactive. The accident was reported when a yellowish-orange cloud was seen emanating from a storage shed operated by Pacific EcoSolutions, located on the southern edge of the Department of Energy's Hanford Site. Emergency responder crews and hazardous materials teams contained the spill and disposed of the leaked radioactive waste. Battelle Boulevard in north Richland was closed during the accident. Brant Baynes, Richland Fire Chief, said local residents were lucky winds were calm because the nitric acid fumes could have posed a threat to public health.

Exposure to radioactive and hazardous materials has led the US Department of Energy to expand the testing of more than 28,000 retired nuclear weapons manufacturing workers and contractors for beryllium disease, a potentially fatal condition. Former workers traditionally had to pay for the tests themselves, which can cost some \$200-\$600. Beryllium disease, also known as berylliosis, is contracted by inhaling beryllium dust. Because symptoms can take up to 30 years to develop, officials fear more than 800,000 people have the disease but do not know it.

In other US nuclear news, US President George Bush nominated Jeffrey Clay Sell to be Deputy Secretary of Energy. Sell presently serves as Bush's Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs. Previously Sell served as Staff Director and Republican Clerk for the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee.

*Sources: Tri-City Herald, 13 February 2005; Associated Press, 19 February 2005; Bradenton Herald, 23 February 2005; Philadelphia Inquirer, 24 February 2005; Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 24 February 2005.*

## Nuclear Insanity

### CONGRESSMAN ADVOCATES FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS USE

During a recent church gathering, Representative Sam Johnson (R-TX) was quoted as saying, "Syria is the problem. Syria is where those weapons of mass destruction are, in my view. You know, I can fly an F-15, put two nukes on 'em and I'll make one pass. We won't have to worry about Syria anymore."

Many organizations, including the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), expressed outrage at Rep. Johnson's statement openly advocating for attacking another country with nuclear weapons. In a letter faxed to Rep. Johnson on 2 March 2005, former Congresswoman Mary Rose Oakar, President of ADC, stated: "While we recognize the current differences between the Bush Administration and the Syrian Government, these differences should be addressed in negotiations at the conference table, in coordi-

nation with our international partners, rather than confrontation in the battle field by using nuclear weapons. Advocating for genocide by nuclear attack against any country is completely unacceptable and contrary to our American values and traditions."

*Source: American-Arab Anti-Discrimination League, 2 March 2005.*

### HALLIBURTON'S LOST RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL FOUND

Officials at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced on 11 February that a Halliburton Co. shipment of radioactive material went missing in October 2004, but the company didn't alert government authorities until 8 February 2005. The material - two sources of the element americium, used in oil well exploration - was found intact on 9 February in Boston after an intense search by federal authorities. NRC and Halliburton officials say the public was never in danger.

According to a report filed by Halliburton with the NRC, the americium was being shipped from Russia to Houston. Depending on the material, government rules require notification either immediately or within 30 days.

Halliburton spokeswoman Wendy Hall blamed the company's shipper, saying it never alerted the Houston-based energy company that the material was missing until 8 February. She said Halliburton contacted the shipping company "multiple times" about the shipment and was told it was en route to Houston. She declined to identify the company on grounds that Halliburton did not want its shipments targeted. Hall said the material was encased in a double-walled stainless steel cylinder, locked in a steel transport container designed to protect workers. According to Hall, "All of this was found intact, and we have no information that leads us to believe that the public or environment were in danger."

Representative Edward Markey (D-MA) said the incident highlights inadequate security measures covering radioactive materials. He also said the americium is classified as having the potential to permanently injure a person who fails to handle it properly.

According to Halliburton's report filed with the NRC, the americium was imported from Russia by Halliburton Energy Services. The shipment went through Amsterdam, Netherlands, to John F. Kennedy Airport in New York on 9 October 2004. The report indicates the material was trucked to Massachusetts after a Boston label was inadvertently placed on the package at the freight company's Newark, New Jersey facility. Homeland Security Department officials and the FBI began a search after the materials were reported missing. The americium was found at a freight facility in Boston.

*Source: AP, 11 February 2005.*

## GERMAN HISTORIAN CLAIMS NAZI SCIENTISTS SUCCESSFULLY TESTED NUCLEAR WEAPON

On 14 March, Albert Einstein's 126th Birthday, a German historian presented a new book which claims that Nazi scientists carried out nuclear tests in Thuringia and on the Baltic Sea in the last months of World War II. Karlsch also reveals in his book that the Germans had an atomic reactor near Berlin which was running for a short while, perhaps some days or weeks.

Author Rainer Karlsch said that new research in Soviet and also Western archives, along with measurements carried out at one of the test sites, provided evidence for the existence of the weapon. Karlsch describes what the Germans had as a "hybrid tactical nuclear weapon" much smaller than those dropped on Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

Karlsch said the last test, carried out in Thuringia on 3 March 1945, destroyed an area of about 500 square miles, killing several hundred prisoners of war and concentration camp inmates. The weapons were never used because they were not yet ready for mass production. There were also problems with delivery and detonation systems.

Karlsch said that people haven't heard about this before because "only small groups of scientists were involved, and a lot of the documents were classified after they were captured by the Allies." One of these classified documents is a memo from a Russian spy, brought to the attention of Stalin just days after the last test. It cites "reliable sources" as reporting "two huge explosions" on the night of 3 March. Karlsch also cites German eyewitnesses as reporting light so bright that for a second it was possible to read a newspaper, accompanied by a sudden blast of wind. The eyewitnesses, who were interviewed on the subject by the East German authorities in the early 1960s, also said they suffered nose-bleeds, headaches, and nausea for days afterwards. Karlsch also pointed to measurements carried out recently at the test site that found radioactive isotopes. Karlsch's book has provoked huge interest and skepticism in Germany. For decades, it has been common knowledge that the Nazis carried out atomic experiments, but it has been widely believed they were far from developing an atomic bomb.

The influential news weekly *Der Spiegel* criticized the book, "The eyewitnesses he puts forward are either unreliable or they are not reporting first-hand information; allegedly key documents can be interpreted in various ways."

Physicist and author of a previous book about Nazi atomic experiments Michael Schaaf wrote in the *Berliner Zeitung* newspaper, "Karlsch displays a catastrophic lack of understanding of physics." However, he added, "Karlsch has done us a service in showing that German research into uranium went further than we'd thought up till now. But there was not a German atom bomb."

It has also been pointed out that the United States employed thousands of scientists and invested billions of dollars in the

Manhattan Project, while Germany's "dirty bomb" was allegedly the work of a few dozen top scientists who wanted to change the course of the war.

Karlsch himself has acknowledged that he lacked absolute proof for his claims, and said he hoped his book would provoke further research. However, he said in a press statement before the book launch, "It's clear there was no master plan for developing atom bombs. But it's also clear the Germans were the first to make atomic energy useable, and that at the end of this development was a successful test of a tactical nuclear weapon."

*Source: BBC News, 14 March 2005.*

## US, JAPAN HID HEALTH FINDINGS ON BIKINI ATOLL NUCLEAR VICTIMS

According to declassified documents obtained by Kyodo News, the Japanese and US governments withheld medical findings that the reproductive functions of some Japanese fishermen had shown abnormalities after being exposed to the US Bikini Atoll hydrogen bomb test on 1 March 1954. The documents reveal that the two governments did not inform the fishermen themselves of the abnormalities found, including a temporary decline in sperm count.

The documents include a memorandum dated 27 December 1954, sent from the US Embassy in Japan to John Bugher, director of the now-defunct US Atomic Energy Commission's (AEC) division of biology and medicine, as well as a separate AEC document dated 31 August 1954. According to the AEC document, abnormalities such as a temporary fall in sperm count were detected in 18 of the 23 crew members on the *Fukuryu Maru* (Lucky Dragon in English) No. 5.

The crew members received 24 medical inspections in Japan between March and August 1954 after they were showered with radioactive ash while fishing for tuna 160 kilometers east of the bomb test site at Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

The US Embassy's memorandum said three doctors from a Tokyo hospital had approached the embassy in September 1954 requesting that the medical findings be classified, and the US agreed to do so. The doctors were not identified.

The medical findings were eventually made public at a Japanese academic conference in April 1955, about three months after compensation negotiations between Japan and the United States were settled.

The memorandum also indicated that the Japanese and US governments were expecting a closed bilateral meeting on radiation in Tokyo in November that year would serve as an opportunity to heal the rift between the two countries over the Bikini fallout.

Matashichi Oishi, 71, a surviving crew member of the wood-

en trawler, said, "I was also tested for my sperm but the doctors never told me the results. At that time, the issue was more than simply a normal relationship between patient and doctor. We fell under this big frame called politics...I am angry that this was all influenced by politics."

The Fukuryu Maru (Lucky Dragon), as well as hundreds of other fishing boats and residents on Bikini Atoll, were irradiated by the hydrogen bomb, codenamed "Bravo," which was 1,000 times more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945.

The bomb was tested as the Cold War between the US and the Soviet Union was intensifying and at a time when many Japanese people were strongly opposed to nuclear arms after the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II.

Kuboyama died that month at the age of 40, six months after the blast, and became the first fatality among the crew members of the 140-ton fishing boat. At least 12 members of the crew of the fishing boat, including Kuboyama, have died, most after years of treatment for illness believed to be linked to their radiation exposure. Most of the surviving members have also suffered serious health problems.

*Source: Kyodo News, 28 February 2005.*

## Nuclear Legacy

### NUCLEAR PLANT DUMPS WASTE ON UK BEACHES

Herbie Lyall, a former safety officer at the UK's Dounreay plant in Caithness, has revealed that safety breaches at the plant have resulted in hundreds of thousands of radioactive particles escaping into the environment. The Dounreay plant is one of the UK's largest nuclear reactor research stations. According to Lyall, who was a health physics surveyor at the plant for 30 years, highly radioactive waste was pumped into the sea, and evidence of the pollution was covered up by managers who had a "reckless" disregard for public health.

Lyall's claims come as the plant's owner, the UK Atomic Energy Authority, is facing a possible criminal prosecution over a series of radioactive leaks. More than 50 radioactive particles have been recovered from a public beach two miles west of the plant. The latest find was on 4 March, when a stone contaminated with caesium-137 was recovered from another beach 20 miles from Dounreay. The authority has admitted that "at least several hundreds of thousands" of plutonium and uranium particles, each the size of a grain of sand, have been released from Dounreay.

Lyall, who worked at Dounreay from 1960 to 1989, has spoken publicly for the first time about his years there despite facing possible prosecution under the Official Secrets Act. Lyall had intended that his account should come to light only

after his death. However, continuing concerns about the health risks from contamination around the nuclear plant have persuaded him to speak out.

In a dossier passed to The Sunday Times, Lyall claims, "High-level radioactive waste was washed down drains intended for low-level waste. This liquid went into effluent pits which were then flushed into the open sea, sometimes on an incoming tide." Lyall also claims that radioactive materials were handled without appropriate protection and cites an instance when two workers who were contaminated later died of cancer in their forties. He also said effluent samples were collected for analysis using a wellington boot on a piece of string because sampling machinery was "a heap of rust."

Regarding his dossier, Lyall stated, "There have been so many lies told to con the public about Dounreay that I feel I must put the record straight. This contamination is a legacy being left for my children's children. It is an absolute disaster. They are talking about prosecuting these people. They deserve execution, not prosecution. This was people's lives they were playing with. They were acting like nuclear cowboys."

Iain Duncan Smith, the former Conservative leader, is demanding a ministerial inquiry. Smith stated, "These allegations raise grave and far-reaching questions about the management of the Dounreay plant over the past 30 years. They deserve the fullest possible investigation by ministers and an end to the culture of complacency and cover-up that seems to surround the plant. If this has been going on at Dounreay, what has been happening at other nuclear establishments in the UK?"

Lyall said he was a member of a survey team that found a highly radioactive particle on Sandside beach in 1984, a find that should have led to immediate public warnings about the safety of the beach. The Atomic Energy Authority has denied any knowledge of the find.

Lyall accuses the Atomic Energy Authority of a cover-up and of risking the health of families and tourists who visited the beach for 13 more years until new concerns were raised. Lyall claims that he regularly complained to management and through trade union officials about safety breaches, but action was rarely taken. He said that on one occasion, when he refused to carry out a dangerous procedure that went against rules laid down by the government, he was charged with refusing to obey an order.

On 5 March, a spokesman for the authority conceded that safety standards at Dounreay were less stringent in the past than now.

*Source: The Times of London, 6 March 2005.*

## UT WITHDRAWS FROM LOS ALAMOS BID, PURSUES COLLABORATIVE WORK WITH SANDIA LAB

On 10 February 2005, the University of Texas Board of Regents voted against seeking the contract to manage the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in New Mexico. The lab's management contract is up for competitive bidding for the first time in its history. The lab has been run by the University of California, but its management has been mired in financial and security controversy of late, prompting competitive bidding for its contract.

Although removing itself from consideration for LANL, the University of Texas has approved a five-year collaboration with Sandia National Laboratories. According to UT Chancellor Mark Yudof, the LANL bid was abandoned after UT was unable to secure a management partner. Yudof also stated that UT's involvement with Sandia would be focused on "more pure science and technology."

The University of Texas plans to open an office at Sandia by October 2005, and hopes its relationship with the facility in Albuquerque will allow for research collaboration and the promotion of education. The University of Texas will also be in charge of reviewing Sandia's science and technology programs.

In related news regarding the bid for LANL, Battelle, a non-profit research, development and management firm, in March also bowed out of the competition for the lab. In recent years, Battelle has swept up one DoE lab after another and now runs five of them with teams - from Brookhaven Lab in Long Island, N.Y., to Oak Ridge in Tennessee to Idaho National Lab and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. According to Battelle Executive Vice President Bill Madia, the firm decided not to bid because running Los Alamos could take management attention away from those labs.

Sources: *Times Star*, 5 March 2005; *Associated Press*, 10 February 2005.

## LANL WASTE SHIPMENTS BEHIND SCHEDULE

According to a recently released report from the Inspector General of the Department of Energy (DoE), shipments of transuranic waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to the Waste Isolation Project Plant (WIPP) disposal facility are four years behind schedule. The report cites the delays have been caused by mismanaged waste processing procedures on the part of LANL.

In order to ship properly, LANL must characterize the waste to ensure it meets WIPP criteria and standards, review the data generated by the characterization and ship the waste to WIPP. LANL, however, has mischaracterized drums of

waste, prompting a halt in the process. In October 2003, 98 drums were not characterized correctly, thus violating WIPP criteria and making the shipment illegal. This unlawful delivery shut down the shipment process, further delaying a project that has already been pushed back years. LANL was scheduled to finish shipping 40,000 drums of waste to WIPP by 2010, but the new report estimates the end date will be closer to 2014 and cost \$70 million more than had been budgeted.

Because of these delays, the DoE has also fallen out of compliance with an agreement made with the New Mexico Environment Department and the Environmental Protection Agency. The agreement, signed in May 2002, stipulated that the DoE must remove all high-risk transuranic waste from LANL by December 2004. To date, only 168 of the 2,300 high-risk drums have been shipped.

The DoE says they will re-evaluate the characterization practices at LANL in order to retain shipping schedules. Yet the DoE contends that it is too early to determine whether they will be able to ship all materials out by the 2010 deadline. They do claim, however, that high-risk waste shipments will be completed by October 2005, even though shipments will not resume until May.

Source: *Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety*, 16-25 February 2005.

## TWO LANL WHISTLE-BLOWERS SUE UC

On 3 March 2005, two Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) whistle-blowers, both former internal auditors at the lab, filed a lawsuit against the University of California and five of its employees alleging retaliation for their outspoken criticisms of what they claim are LANL's ongoing financial and procurement problems.

Chuck Montaña, a 26-year LANL veteran, and Tommy Ray Hook, who was hired by LANL in 1989, allege in the suit that LANL and University of California managers attempted to make their jobs so miserable in retaliation for uncovering management failures that they would be forced to resign.

In their lawsuit, the men name Richard Marquez, LANL's associate director for administration; John Bretzke; Vernon Brown; William Barr; and University of California head auditor Patrick Reed. The two whistleblowers claim that each of these men conspired to retaliate against them by "downgrading their performance evaluations, denying them positions and promotions for which they applied, denying them meaningful work, repeatedly threatening them with termination, and denigrating them to (US Department of Energy) officials in order to silence them from speaking out publicly about matters of public concern..."

Hook and Montaña are seeking to have all adverse employment actions stricken from their employment histories, a return to meaningful work commensurate with their experience and at least \$2 million each for economic damages and \$2 million each for punitive damages.

Officials at the University of California say they take Montaño and Hook's whistleblower complaints seriously. University spokesman Chris Harrington said university officials are working on a "full and completely independent outside investigation," which he said is nearing completion. Harrington also said the investigations have been extended twice due to the length and breadth of the reviews, which have included an evaluation of more than 7,000 documents, many of which were provided by Hook and Montaño, and more than 20 employee interviews.

Source: *Albuquerque Journal*, 4 March 2005.

## Foundation Activities

### A MIND IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE

The Foundation is pleased to announce the publication of "A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste: A Guide to the Demilitarization of America's Youth & Students." Also called the "Demil Guide" for short, this excellent resource was written and produced by and for youth and students.

"Militarization" may not be a concept you're familiar with, but after reading a few articles in this guide, you'll have a better understanding of it. While few people would argue that a country can survive unprotected, the glorification of the military ignores the fact that the most positive change in the United States has come from people standing up to the government, big corporations, and other forms of organized violence and crime.

The Demil Guide includes articles on military recruiting in high schools, universities of mass destruction, how to struggle against militarism, organizing tools and success stories. This collaborative project was made possible by generous grants from the Sunshine Project, the Ben & Jerry's Foundation and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, as well as the "advertisers" that appear in the guide. Contributors to the guide include the American Friends Service Committee, National Youth and Student Peace Coalition, the Sunshine Project, and Tri-Valley CAREs, among others. The Foundation designed and published A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste.

To download the Demil Guide as a PDF, please visit: <http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/programs/youth-out-reach/#demilguide>. To order copies in bulk, please contact the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at (805) 965-3443 or send an email to [youth@napf.org](mailto:youth@napf.org).

## Resources

### **UNDERSTANDING THE "WAR ON TERRORISM": CONSCRIPTION OR CONSCIENCE - YOU HAVE A CHOICE**

Understanding the "War on Terrorism" is the most recent report authored by Bob Aldridge from the Pacific Life Research Center. This report provides a history of conscription and conscientious objection. With estimates projecting US troop levels in Iraq remaining above 120,000 for the next two years, many wonder whether the draft will return. This report examines the possibility of the return of the combat draft or the introduction of a Medical or Skills Draft. The complete report is available as a PDF download at: <http://www.plrc.org/docs/050227.pdf>.

### **SOLDIERS IN THE LABORATORY**

Soldiers in the Laboratory, published by Scientists for Global Responsibility, is a study of military involvement in science and technology. The report finds the military sector in the US and UK has a disproportionate effect on science, engineering and technology research. The global security agenda requires scientific institutions, individual scientists and engineers to shift their perspective towards alternative views of security. Soldiers in the Laboratory is available as a PDF download at: [http://www.sgr.org.uk/ArmsControl/Soldiers\\_in\\_Lab\\_Report.pdf](http://www.sgr.org.uk/ArmsControl/Soldiers_in_Lab_Report.pdf).

### **MANAGING THE DIRTY BOMB THREAT**

Managing the Dirty Bomb Threat, published by the British American Security Information Council, finds that although much media attention has been dedicated to the dirty bomb threat, very little accurate information has actually been conveyed. This report provides accurate information and makes recommendations to the US and UK governments to provide greater security against the threat. The full report is available at: <http://www.basicint.org/pubs/Papers/BP47.htm>.

### **DOLLAR SHIFT: THE IRAQ WAR AND THE CHANGING FACE OF PENTAGON CONTRACTING**

Dollar Shift: The Iraq War and the Changing Face of Pentagon Contracting is the latest report from the World Policy Institute. The report examines the growing role of companies that provide logistics, rebuilding services, and equipment for the US occupation of Iraq as compared to those companies that manufacture weapons systems, warplanes, ships and other military hardware. William Hartung, co-author of the report, says, "We are seeing the beginnings of a 'guns versus occupation' tradeoff developing within the Pentagon." The complete report is available at: <http://www.worldpolicy.org/projects/arms/reports/Top102005Rreport.html>.

## US ARMY WAR COLLEGE PRIMER ON DECEPTION

The US Army War College has published Deception 101 - Primer on Deception, a report that provides an introduction to the practice of deception as a tactic in military and political conflict. The report, although not representing official US Army policy, surveys a variety of past and present instances of deception and reminds the reader of general principles in using deception as a means to an end. The report is available as a PDF download at:

<http://www.fas.org/irp/eprint/deception.pdf>.

### SUMMARY OF GOVERNMENT DATA ON TESTING OF VETERANS FOR DEPLETED URANIUM EXPOSURE DURING SERVICE IN IRAQ

It is estimated that 350,000 pounds (159,000 kg) of depleted uranium (DU) armor piercing munitions were used in the Iraq War by the US and its allies. Summary of Government Data on Testing of Veterans for Depleted Uranium Exposure During Service in Iraq is a report that explores the dangers posed to veterans from exposure to DU munitions. The report is available as a PDF download at: <http://www.antenna.nl/wise/uranium/pdf/duvtiq05.pdf>.

### NUCLEAR PRIORITIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY 2006 BUDGET REQUEST

The Alliance for Nuclear Accountability has compiled portions of the Department of Energy's fiscal year 2006 congressional budget request which detail nuclear weapons, cleanup and waste activities. To view these highlighted areas of the DoE budget visit: <http://ananuclear.org/fy06budget.html>.

## Quotable

*"Creation of outer space weapons is certainly not our choice... If we manage to prevent placement of weapons in outer space, we shall be able to direct progress in space science and technology into a constructive course for the benefit of all... We also (have) called on all countries with a space potential to follow our example."*

- Ambassador Leonid Skotnikov of the Russian Federation  
Speaking at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva,  
Switzerland  
1 February 2005

*"We will continue our efforts to maintain the ability to conduct underground nuclear testing and complete the transition to the 18-month test readiness posture that is mandated by Congress."*

- US Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman  
Remarks made to the Senate Armed Services Committee  
15 February 2005

*"[Countries] all across the globe are putting things underground, and we have no capability, conventional or nuclear, to deal with the issue of deep penetrat[ion]."*

- US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld  
Remarks made to the House Armed Services Committee  
calling for support of new nuclear weapons  
16 February 2005

*"Iranian nuclear proliferation could constitute a 'tipping point' in the Middle East, with states from Saudi Arabia to Egypt and possibly Syria and Algeria likely to respond with efforts to acquire nuclear capability and threatening the nuclear nonproliferation regime... Stopping Iran short of achieving a nuclear weapons capability - by diplomacy if possible; by other means, if necessary - is a vital U.S. interest."*

- Security, Reform, and Peace: The Three Pillars of U.S.  
Strategy in the Middle East  
A report issued by the Washington Institute for Near East  
Policy  
22 February 2005

View the complete report as a PDF download at  
<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/html/pdf/PSG2005.pdf>

*"I don't think they are really looking for nuclear weapons... They realize they would be smashed by Israel or by us."*

- Henry Precht, retired Department of State Foreign Service  
Officer  
Remarks made on the possibility of an Iranian bomb  
27 February 2005

## Editorial Team

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