

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

Creating a World Free of Nuclear Weapons: A Speech for President Obama

by David Krieger

(This is a speech that President Obama might give to educate and encourage American citizens to support him in seeking a world free of nuclear weapons and to alert the world to America's new proactive stance on nuclear disarmament.)

My Fellow Citizens,

I want to talk with you about an issue of the utmost importance for our common future and that of our children, grandchildren and generations to follow us on our planet.

The issue is nuclear weapons and the threat they pose to all humanity. As we learned more than six decades ago at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a single nuclear weapon can destroy a city, and the nuclear weapons today are far more powerful than those used in 1945. By implication, a few nuclear weapons could destroy a country and a nuclear war could end civilization as we know it.

To read more, visit: www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/02/12_krieger_obama_speech.php.

Cut Military Spending

by Rep. Barney Frank

I am a great believer in freedom of expression and am proud of those times when I have been one of a few members of Congress to oppose censorship. I still hold close to an absolutist position, but I have been tempted recently to make an exception, not by banning speech but by requiring it. I would be very happy if there was some way to make it a misdemeanor for people to talk about reducing the budget deficit without including a recommendation that we substantially cut military spending.

To read more, visit: www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/02/17_frank_military_spending.php.

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

US Considering Moving Control of Nuclear Labs to the Pentagon

The Obama administration is considering whether to shift the management of the nuclear weapons complex to the Pentagon from the Energy Department, which would end more than 60 years of civilian control over nuclear bomb production.

Oversight of the costly cleanup of heavily polluted weapons plants would stay with the Energy Department. The department was formed in 1977 and immediately assumed responsibility for the weapons program from the Energy Research and Development Administration, another civilian agency. Ever since, the department's weapons part has dwarfed the energy part.

Danielle Brian, executive director of the Project on Government Oversight, said that if transferred, the weapons laboratories would be "even less transparent than they are now" with regard to environmental and security problems.

Wald, Matthew, "Bomb Plants Could Shift to Control of Pentagon," *New York Times*, February 6, 2009.

US Using British Atomic Weapons Factory for Its Nuclear Program

In an interview with John Harvey, policy and planning director at the US National Nuclear Security Administration, he revealed that the US has been using the UK's Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston to conduct research for its own nuclear warhead program.

Opposition groups have stated that this goes against international law and that it technically means Britain does not have a completely independent nuclear weapons program, and that British taxpayers are contributing to the US nuclear program.

Campaigners believe that because US Congress stopped funding research for the new nuclear warhead, Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW), the US military began using British facilities. It is unclear whether research and experiments are still currently being conducted.

Taylor, Matthew and Richard Norton-Taylor, "US Using British Atomic Weapons Factory for Its Nuclear Programme," *The Guardian*, February 9, 2009.

Nuclear Proliferation

India Signs Safeguards Agreement with IAEA

India has signed an inspection agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This fulfills a major precondition for nuclear-exporting countries to begin supplying India with nuclear materials.

Last September, the Nuclear Suppliers Group of nuclear-exporting countries decided to end its supply ban for India, based on an agreement pushed through by the US and on condition that IAEA inspections are in place.

India had been banned from receiving nuclear materials from other countries since its first test of an atomic weapon in 1974. India, along with Israel and Pakistan, has refused to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) since was opened for signatures in 1968. North Korea dropped out of the NPT in 2003 to develop its nuclear weapons program.

"India Signs Nuclear Inspection Agreement with IAEA," *The Earth Times*, February 2, 2009.

US Meets Moscow Treaty Reductions Ahead of Schedule

According to the Federation of American Scientists, the United States has met its commitment under the Moscow Treaty to reduce the number of its *deployed strategic* nuclear warheads to 2,200. The treaty calls on the US and Russia to achieve this goal by the year 2012. Russia appears on schedule to meet the 2012 deadline.

Many recent news reports have said that President Obama is likely to seek more drastic reductions in a renewal of the START I treaty, which expires at the end of 2009.

"US Meets Moscow Treaty Nuclear Reduction Commitment Three Years Early," *Global Security Newswire*, February 11, 2009.

Nuclear Insanity

British and French Nuclear Subs Collide in Atlantic

In February, British and French submarines loaded with nuclear weapons collided in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Both submarines are powered by nuclear reactors.

According to reports, the French submarine was able to return to its port under its own power; the British submarine was towed back to port.

British and French officials claim that this incident was a random accident caused by the extreme stealth capabilities of the

submarines. However, the British sub suffered significant damage to the propeller area at the rear of the sub, and the French craft was heavily damaged at the front. Some skeptics say that this could indicate a “rear-ending” caused by the French chasing the British sub.

One British Member of Parliament called on the Ministry of Defense to “explain how it is possible for a submarine, carrying weapons of mass destruction, to collide with another submarine carrying weapons of mass destruction, in the middle of the world’s second-largest ocean.”

Regardless of the cause of the accident, the effect has been to draw the public’s attention to the continuous movement of hundreds of nuclear warheads under the oceans, a policy left over from the Cold War.

Williams, Rachel and Richard Norton-Taylor, “Nuclear Submarines Collide in Atlantic,” *The Guardian*, February 16, 2009.

US and Russian Satellites Collide in Space

The first-ever collision between two satellites in outer space has created massive clouds of debris that will threaten space operations for decades to come.

According to Mike Moore, a research fellow with the Independent Institute, every country except the United States and Israel has gone on record in the UN General Assembly as favoring a treaty that would prevent an arms race in space.

While the particular satellites involved in this crash were not known to be military-related, Moore argues that this is a good time for the US to engage in good faith talks to keep space for peace.

Moore, Mike, “Space Debris: From Nuisance to Nightmare,” *Foreign Policy*, February 2009.

Russia's Miss Atom Contest Ends Soon

The competition for Russia’s Miss Atom 2009 runs until March 7. This beauty pageant, founded in 2004, is open to all women working in the nuclear industry or studying nuclear-related subjects in a university.

The grand prize winner receives a one-week trip to Cuba. The contest is sponsored primarily by the top companies in the Russian nuclear industry.

Hodge, Nathan, “Vote for Russia’s ‘Miss Atom’ 2009,” *Wired Blog Network*, February 12, 2009.

Youth and Student

The Missouri University Nuclear Disarmament Education Team

Recently, President Barack Obama stated, “I will make the goal of elimination of nuclear weapons worldwide a central element of U.S. nuclear weapons policy.” Without question, this is the most promising nuclear disarmament statement by a US president in recent history. However, the road to abolition will not be an easy one. Given the financial and political power of the corporate/military nuclear weapons complex, the president will face many hurdles, and will have to obtain strong grassroots support to convince members of Congress to endorse the kind of comprehensive international regimen that will be required to accomplish the president’s goal.

Presently, insufficient intellectual and political activity concerning nuclear disarmament (especially at the local level) is going on in this country or other parts of the world. Despite the recent, encouraging statements by several well-known political figures both here and abroad, and the excellent work by numerous non-governmental organizations that are

supplying timely information and strategies for political action, nuclear war prevention continues to rank low on the list of immediate citizen concerns when compared with problems of unemployment, economic recession, health care, education, etc. Additionally, most college and university professors who normally address other serious human problems, have almost totally defaulted on the world's most pressing environmental/survival issue. Nuclear war will not merely warm the planet, it will "sizzle" it.

With the academic default in mind, the University of Missouri - Columbia Peace Studies Program has initiated the Missouri University Nuclear Disarmament Education Team (MUNDET) whose mission is to inform citizens of Missouri, and other parts of the world, of the urgent need to abolish nuclear weapons from Planet Earth, and inspire them to work for that goal. MUNDET works with educational, religious, civic and other community groups by addressing the main issues connected with the nuclear threat and how it must be met. Among its tools has been the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's excellent [DVD Nuclear Weapons and the Human Future](#) and the Nuclear Threat Initiative's DVD *Last Best Chance*.

In accordance with the university's three major functions, i.e., research, instruction, and public service, MUNDET:

- Consults with interested faculty and students at colleges and universities (and elsewhere) about research into nuclear disarmament problems;
- Provides assistance to college, university, and high school faculties regarding nuclear disarmament education curriculum planning and development; and
- Assists environmental, civic and faith-based organizations, as well as other interested parties with nuclear disarmament education programming and promotion.

For more information, contact Bill Wickersham at bwickers@centurytel.net or (573) 817-1512.

Resources

Will War Ever End? A Soldier's Vision of Peace for the 21st Century

Active duty US Army Captain Paul K. Chappell has written a book titled *Will War Ever End? A Soldier's Vision of Peace for the 21st Century*.

Capt. Chappell addresses many important questions in his book, including:

- "Are human beings naturally violent?"
- "What is hatred?"
- "How can love overcome the power of hatred?"
- "How does nonviolence overcome the power of violence?"

The author lays out a practical framework for transforming the way we think about war and violence, empowering readers to work to achieve true peace for humankind.

For a limited time, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will send you a free copy of this book when you donate \$100 or more. [Click here](#) to donate online today, or call us at (805) 965-3443 to donate over the phone.

For more information on this book and Capt. Chappell's efforts for peace, visit his website at www.paulkchappell.com.

New Website Focuses on Climatic Consequences of Nuclear War

A new website has been launched to help people better understand the environmental and climatic consequences of nuclear

war.

The website, www.nucleardarkness.org, explains the concept of nuclear darkness and how this would cause deadly global climate change. The site contains general information that can be understood by everyone, as well as more technical information for those interested in researching the topic more deeply.

The website is coordinated by Steven Starr, a Senior Scientist with Physicians for Social Responsibility and an occasional contributor to the *Sunflower* e-newsletter.

Foundation Activities

NAPF Members Help Cut Nuclear Pork from Stimulus

Hundreds of Nuclear Age Peace Foundation members in key Congressional districts helped to remove billions of dollars in funding for nuclear weapons and nuclear energy in the recent \$787 billion economic stimulus package.

Members of NAPF's Action Alert Network in Wisconsin, Mississippi, Hawaii, California and Nevada wrote to their senator or representative who had key roles in shaping the final stimulus package. The \$1 billion proposed for nuclear weapons and up to \$50 billion proposed for nuclear power were eliminated from the final bill.

The Foundation's Action Alert Network is now over 16,000 members strong. To join our efforts for a nuclear weapons-free world, visit <http://capwiz.com/wagingpeace/mlm/signup/>.

Last Chance to Sign the Appeal to President Obama

On March 11, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will submit to the Obama administration the Appeal calling for US leadership for a nuclear weapons-free world.

You can sign the Appeal online at www.wagingpeace.org/appeal. Please let your friends, family and colleagues know about this opportunity to make their voices heard.

Together with our primary partner, the Campaign for a Nuclear Weapons Free World, we have gathered over 60,000 signatures so far.

Frances Moore Lappé Delivers 8th Annual Kelly Lecture

Best-selling author Frances Moore Lappé delivered the 8th Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future in Santa Barbara on February 25.

Ms. Lappé's talk was titled "Living Democracy, Feeding Hope." She spoke to a standing room-only crowd at La Casa de Maria, which co-sponsored the event along with the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

A DVD of the lecture will be available from the Foundation soon. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please contact us at (805) 965-3443.

[Click here](#) to download the audio recording of Ms. Lappé's lecture (58 minutes, 66 mb).

Quotes

“The nuclear nonproliferation regime has lost its legitimacy in the eyes of Arab public opinion because of the perceived double-standards concerning Israel, the only state in the region outside the NPT and known to possess nuclear weapons.”

-- Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in a recent [op-ed](#) in the *International Herald Tribune*

“We’ll...reform our defense budget so that we’re not paying for Cold War-era weapons systems we don’t use.”

-- President **Barack Obama**, addressing a joint session of Congress on February 23, 2009

“Two decades after the end of the cold war, all of the nuclear powers have been inexcusably negligent about rethinking nuclear strategies, sharply reducing arsenals and eliminating needlessly risky practices.”

-- A *New York Times* [editorial](#) on February 23, 2009

“In your editorial, ‘[When Nuclear Subs Collide](#),’ you rightly point out that the nuclear weapons states have been ‘inexcusably negligent’ in failing to make more progress toward reducing nuclear risks. The truth is that the only level of risk that is acceptable is zero and that will require a world with zero nuclear weapons. That should be our goal, a goal required by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. By continuing to allow nuclear armed missiles on submarines, we defile the oceans, the common heritage of humankind, with weapons capable of destroying humankind. The technical fix you offer, of assigning different depths to different country’s submarines, is a band-aid. At root, what must change is our thinking about these obscene instruments of annihilation.”

-- Nuclear Age Peace Foundation President **David Krieger**, in a letter to the editor of the *New York Times*

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