

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

Speech to the Organization of American States

by David Krieger

It is a great honor to celebrate with you the 40th anniversary year of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, officially called the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean. This Treaty was a great achievement, and has served your region well.

Many years ago, I had the pleasure of knowing and working with Alfonso Garcia Robles, the great Mexican

diplomat who was so instrumental in creating this treaty. For his vision and commitment, he shared the 1982 Nobel Peace Prize with Swedish diplomat Alva Myrdal.

The Treaty of Tlatelolco paved the way and was a model for other Nuclear Weapon Free Zones – those in the South Pacific, Southeast Asia, Africa, and Central Asia. Today, virtually the entirety of the southern hemisphere is covered by Nuclear Weapon Free Zones. Latin America and the Caribbean led the way in this important achievement.

Click here to read more: www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/03/15_kreiger_org_amer_states.htm.

The ABCs of Nuclear Disarmament

by Alice Slater

The chilling announcement that our government is preparing to replace our entire nuclear arsenal with new hydrogen bombs comes on the heels of a call for nuclear abolition by no less a peace activist than Henry Kissinger, joined by old cold warriors Sam Nunn, George Schultz, and William Perry in a [recent](#) *Wall Street Journal* editorial.

We've been pushing our luck for more than 60 years since the first and only two atomic bombs to be used in war were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing more than 214,000 people in the initial days, and causing numerous cases of cancers, mutations and birth defects in their radioactive aftermath, new incidences of which are still being documented today. During these sixty years of the Nuclear Age, every site worldwide, involved in the mining, milling, production and fabrication of uranium, for either war or for "peace," has left a lethal legacy of radioactive waste, illness, and damage to our very genetic heritage. Bomb and reactor-created plutonium stays toxic for more than 250,000 years and we still haven't figured out how to safely contain it.

Click here to read more: www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/03/14_slater_ABCs_of_Nuc_Disarm.htm.

Nuclear Proliferation

British Government Approves New Nuclear Weapons

On 14 March, Great Britain approved funding for a new generation of nuclear weapons. After a six hour debate, the House of Commons voted 409 to 161 in favor of a \$40 billion program that will replace Britain's existing submarine-based Trident nuclear missiles. In protest of the decision, three low ranking ministerial aids from the Labor Party resigned from their jobs declaring, "We must lead the world in campaigning for the eradication of the nuclear threat, and we must lead by example."

The vote caused a rare fracture in the Labor Party and 90 members voted against the program, arguing that a reinvestment in Britain's nuclear weapon's stockpile will make it harder to convince countries like North Korea and Iran not to further pursue nuclear weapons.

Prime Minister Tony Blair argued that disarming Britain's nuclear weapons arsenal, which is the smallest of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, would do nothing to improve efforts towards multilateral nuclear disarmament. The Labor Party has traditionally been committed to unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Although Prime Minister Blair has declared this decision was not irreversible, it was a huge blow to disarmament efforts in Great Britain. It was the first time the British government had voted on whether to

remain a nuclear power. This has practically guaranteed that Britain will retain its nuclear arsenal until at least 2045. Patrick O'Donoghue, the Roman Catholic bishop of Lancaster, said: "In my judgment the U.K.'s continued possession of nuclear weapons is no longer simply maintaining the 'balance of terror,' but fueling the development of new nuclear weapons systems around the world."

Source: Cowell, Alan, "Despite Labor Revolt, Blair Wins Vote on Nuclear Deterrent," *International Herald Tribune*, 15 March 2007.

For more information go to: www.basicint.org/nuclear/beyondtrident/greenpaper.pdf

Nuclear Energy and Waste

US to Help Build Vietnamese Nuclear Power Plant

On Monday, 20 March, the United States pledged to help Vietnam build a nuclear power plant if the country agreed not to use weapons grade uranium in its test reactor.

Seen by the Bush administration as an advancement in non-proliferation efforts, the US has promised to help Vietnam with its energy needs. The Administration says that this will ensure that Vietnam does not produce nuclear weapons. This would be the first nuclear power plant in Vietnam.

The US and Vietnam have also agreed to convert a Soviet-built research reactor from a high enriched to a low enriched uranium reactor. According to a source that spoke on the condition of anonymity, "We've had a lot of broad-based discussions about various nuclear issues and providing assistance and cooperation to the Vietnamese, but there is no formal agreement at this point."

Source: "US to Help Build Vietnam's First Nuclear Plant," *Associated Press*, 20 March 2007.

Department of Energy Holds Reprocessing Hearings

On Monday, 19 March, the Department of Energy (DOE) held the last of its series of public hearings regarding its proposed plan to resume reprocessing nuclear fuel in the United States.

The hearings, which are required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), were forums for citizens to publicly comment on the Bush administration's proposed Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) program. Many of those in attendance were opposed to the program. Nickolas Roth, Director of the NAPF Washington, DC office and a member of the Think Outside the Bomb National Youth Network, stated "The youth of America do not want reprocessing to resume in the United States. This is a dirty, dangerous and expensive initiative by the Bush administration."

The other hearings across the country have focused on what sites should be selected for new GNEP plants. In Piketon, Ohio there have been several meetings held on the possibility of building a nuclear reprocessing plant at the already existing Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion plant. Among the 300 who attended was Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, who said in a statement that there was not enough information publicly available on whether the state should house a GNEP plant. He also had concerns about the environmental risks and how monitoring would be conducted.

GNEP is the Bush administration's \$200 billion attempt at addressing the growing problem of nuclear waste around the world. Under the program, nuclear waste would be brought to the United States for reprocessing and sent back to other countries as nuclear fuel. Proponents of the program see this as a non-proliferation

effort intended to prevent other countries from building their own reprocessing facilities. However, there are many concerns that this will, in fact, increase the likelihood of weapons grade nuclear material falling into the wrong hands.

Source: Barron, Jeff, "Details Revealed on Nuke Recycling," *Portsmouth Daily Times*, 20 March 2007.

DOE Receives Fine for Poor Oversight

On 28 March, the Hanford nuclear reservation received a massive fine due to poor oversight and performance problems.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a fine for \$1.14 million, the largest fine it has ever issued. "It is significant, but so are the issues," said Nick Ceto, EPA Hanford project manager.

"Continued missteps at one of the country's most complex and difficult cleanup sites cannot — and will not — be tolerated," Elin Miller, the EPA regional administrator, said in a statement.

The fine includes \$835,000 for failure to correctly perform compaction testing from June 2005 through early January 2007, when one employee falsified testing results. The remaining \$305,000 was assessed because of problems monitoring and using a system to pump water that was collected and drained from the upper liner of the double-lined landfill.

The Hanford site, one of the most polluted areas in the United States, is a Superfund cleanup site being monitored by the EPA.

Source: Cary, Annette, "DOE Fined \$1.14 Million," *Tri-City Herald*, 28 March 2007.

Nuclear Insanity

State to Blame for LANL Cleanup Delays

On 17 March, a former Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) employee published an article in the *Albuquerque Journal* blaming the state of New Mexico for long delays in cleaning up lab related pollution.

Charlie Nylander, who formerly was the head of LANL's groundwater protection program, said that the state's Environmental Department required the lab to submit, among other things, reports on contamination investigation and cleanup plans, but failed to act on the submitted reports.

According to Nylander, this backlog kept LANL from moving ahead with the cleanup work. While Nylander said that it is not entirely the fault of the state, "it's a lot more of a two-way street than the average citizen realizes."

A LANL spokesman said that Nylander's views did not necessarily reflect those of the institution. This most recent debate highlights increasing disparity between the federal nuclear weapons lab and state regulators. In 2005, the State of New Mexico signed an agreement with LANL to clean hundreds of sites across the lab. The state has already fined LANL \$240,000 for non-compliance.

New Mexico's Environment Secretary, Ron Curry, stated, "The (Environment) Department can always do better, period. But for us to assume equal, or even a small portion of the responsibility (for cleanup delays), I would completely disagree. It's the mentality of the culture at the lab that does not want to share information

and share it on a timely basis.”

Source: Arnold, John, “LANL Delays Blamed on State,” *Albuquerque Journal*, 17 March 2007.

Resources

Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies

This new major Handbook provides a cutting-edge transdisciplinary overview of the main issues, debates, state-of-the-art methods and key concepts in peace and conflict studies today. The volume is divided into four sections, which include understanding and transforming conflict, creating peace, supporting peace, and peace across the disciplines. It includes an article on International Law by Foundation Chair Richard Falk, and an article on Nuclear Disarmament by Foundation President David Krieger.

To order the Handbook, visit the Routledge website at: www.routledge.com.

Conventional Warheads for Long-Range Ballistic Missiles:

Background and Issues for Congress

This Congressional Research Service report for Congress provides an overview of the administration’s rationale for the possible deployment of conventional warheads on long-range ballistic missiles. It then reviews the Air Force and Navy efforts to develop these systems. It summarizes Congressional reaction to these proposals, then provides a more detailed account of the issues raised by these concepts and programs. www.fas.org/sgp/crs/nuke/RL33067.pdf

Foundation Activities

Panel on “Nuclear Weapons and the Human Future”

Monday, 16 April, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is co-sponsoring a panel, “Nuclear Weapons and the Human Future.” The evening will begin with a presentation by Foundation President David Krieger. Following the presentation, panelists will address the evening’s topic and field questions. Panelists will include: Foundation Senior Vice President Frank Kelly; and Lecturer Emeritus, UC Santa Barbara Nandini Iyer. The event will take place at the Faulkner Gallery in the Santa Barbara Public Library from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Washington, DC Think Outside the Bomb Conference

On 21 April, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will be hosting a Think Outside the Bomb Conference in Washington, DC at American University’s Kay Chapel. Over 100 students from all over the east coast will be attending a day-long conference featuring some of the nation’s top experts on nuclear issues. To receive more information or attend, go to www.ThinkoutsidetheBomb.org or email the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation’s Washington, DC Office Director, Nickolas Roth, at nroth@napf.org.

Middle-East Peace Forum

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is co-sponsoring a forum on Middle-East peace, Saturday, 28 April. The forum is entitled "Palestine and Israel – A Search for Common Ground." The featured speaker will be Afif Safieh, scholar, diplomat and head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's mission to the United States. The forum will be held at the Garvin Theater, Santa Barbara City College, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Non-Proliferation Treaty PrepCom to Meet in Vienna

The Preparatory Committee for the review of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) will be meeting in Vienna, Austria. Foundation President David Krieger; Washington, DC Director Nickolas Roth and New York Representative Alice Slater will be representing the NAPF at the meeting. This meeting, which will be held at the beginning of May, will consider statements, working papers, and reports in preparation for the 2010 NPT Review Conference. NGOs like the NAPF play an important role in bringing the perspectives of civil society to this intergovernmental meeting.

World Future Council to Hold Inaugural Meeting

Foundation President and World Future Council (WFC) member, David Krieger, will attend the WFC inaugural meeting in Hamburg's Town Hall in May 2007. The WFC's vision is for a global council made up of wise elders, thinkers, pioneers, and young leaders. It was born out of a frustration with global politics and its apparent inability to take the necessary steps to secure our common future. The meeting will be the public launch of the WFC's first campaign with the mission to clearly define climate stabilization as a fundamental necessity and human responsibility for a more just, peaceful and sustainable world for future generations.

Youth Empowerment Initiative Concert

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Youth Empowerment Initiative is holding a concert, "No Nukes! No Wars!" on 25 May. The concert will be held at Earl Warren Showgrounds and will feature local and regional acts, including headliner Radioactive. For more information about the lineup and how to buy tickets, visit the NAPF Youth Empowerment website: www.wagingpeace.org/youth.

Quotes

"In my judgment, legacy weapons are safe enough, especially in view of their reduced numbers and the lack of airborne alert. Surety improvements in the RRW are sound but not absolute, and the vulnerability of legacy weapons must be placed in context with other means for acquiring weapon-usable material. In any case, legacy weapons are going to be with us for a long time and whatever surety improvements can be incorporated into the handling facilities, if not into the weapons themselves, should be justified and pursued, if cost-effective."

- - **Dr. Richard L. Garwin**, testimony from the House Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

“It took a Manhattan Project to create the bomb....We need a new Manhattan Project to stop the bomb — a comprehensive program to secure all nuclear weapons and all weapons-usable material, worldwide.”

- - Presidential Candidate **Bill Richardson**

“It seems to me pretty self-evident we should have quite a mature discussion about whether this is the contemporary weaponry to deal with the contemporary threat or whether this is a hangover from a previous epoch.”

- - British Labor Party lawmaker **Jon Cruddas**

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