

# THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

## Issue #129 - April 2008

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

Visit [www.wagingpeace.org/donate](http://www.wagingpeace.org/donate) to help sustain this valuable resource by making a donation.

To receive our free monthly e-newsletter subscribe at [www.wagingpeace.org/subscribe](http://www.wagingpeace.org/subscribe)

- Perspectives
  - Possibilities for a Nuclear-Free World by Lawrence S. Wittner and Jayantha Dhanapala
  - New Leaders and Policies Are a Cause for Hope by Joseph Cirincione
  - The Non-Proliferation Treaty and Human Survival by David Krieger
- Nuclear Proliferation
  - US Talks with Russia: New Compromises or Just a New Tone?
  - Arab League Seeks Leverage in Creating a Nuclear-Free Middle East
- Nuclear Insanity
  - US Nuclear Parts Shipped Accidentally Across the Globe
  - General Proposes At Least 100 More Years of Nuclear Weapons
- Resources
  - Determining the Local Cost of the Iraq War
  - Back from the Margins: The Centrality of Nuclear Disarmament
  - The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook
  - Literary Guide to Nuclear Arms Control
- Foundation Activities
  - Foundation Representatives to Attend Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference
  - In-Security - The Nuclear Dilemma
  - NAPF Launches Online Disarmament Video Contest
  - Think Outside the Bomb in Washington, DC
- Quotes

## Perspectives

### Possibilities for a Nuclear-Free World

by Lawrence S. Wittner and Jayantha Dhanapala

In the following opinion piece, which appeared in the March 20, 2008 issue of the *Asahi Shimbun*, Jayantha Dhanapala—the distinguished former Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs at the United Nations—not only makes the case for

a nuclear-free world, but argues that it is a viable possibility.

In Dhanapala's view, the campaign to abolish nuclear weapons has acquired significant momentum thanks to the initiative of four former senior US government officials: George Shultz (Ronald Reagan's Secretary of State), Henry Kissinger (Richard Nixon's Secretary of State), William Perry (Bill Clinton's Secretary of Defense), and Sam Nunn (former Chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee). In January 2007 and, again, in January 2008, they published powerful opinion pieces in the *Wall Street Journal* that outlined the need for a nuclear-free world, as well as steps in that direction. Since that time, Dhanapala notes, there has been important follow-up to this initiative by other former national security officials and nuclear experts.

To read more, visit: [www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/03/24\\_wittner\\_dhanapala\\_possibilities.php](http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/03/24_wittner_dhanapala_possibilities.php).

---

## **New Leaders and Policies Are a Cause for Hope**

by Joseph Cirincione

We are in a period of dramatic political transition. The US presidential election is just one part of an unusual simultaneous change in global leadership. Combined with two other political developments, they could lead to sweeping change in policies governing the 26,000 nuclear weapons in the world today.

By early 2009, four of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (France, Britain, the United States and Russia) will have new leaders. Other key states, including Iran and Israel, may also. Several already have made the switch - South Korea, Japan, Australia, Germany, France, Britain and Italy.

The rise of so many new leaders less wed to past policies brings the possibility that some, perhaps many, could adopt new policies to dramatically reduce many of the nuclear dangers that have tormented governments for decades. They would not need new policies if the old ones were working. But they are not.

To read more, visit: [www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/04/03\\_cirincione\\_leaders\\_hope.php](http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/04/03_cirincione_leaders_hope.php).

---

## **The Non-Proliferation Treaty and Human Survival**

by David Krieger

In the vastness of the universe there is only one place we know of where life exists. That place, of course, is our planet, our Earth. Our planet has been hospitable to the evolution of life, resulting in the development of complex life forms, including homo sapiens, the "knowing" ones. We are "knowing" because we have the capacity to perceive and reflect upon our surroundings, our vision reaching to the far ends of the universe itself.

We humans are nature's mirror. We were created by the conditions of the universe, but in a sense it is also true that, by our perceptions and reflections, we create the universe. A well-known philosophical riddle asks whether a tree falling in the forest would make a sound if there were no one there to hear it. In the same way, but on a larger scale, we might ask if the universe itself would exist if there were no creatures like ourselves capable of perceiving and reflecting upon it.

All of this is to say that human beings are special. In the long span of universe time, the appearance of humans is just a few short ticks on the cosmic clock. Yet, in that short span of time we have achieved remarkable intellectual, spiritual and artistic heights. We have also created tools capable of destroying much of life, including ourselves. By our cleverness in creating nuclear weapons, we have placed our own future on the planet in danger.

To read more, visit: [www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/04/04\\_krieger\\_npt\\_survival.php](http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/04/04_krieger_npt_survival.php).

## Nuclear Proliferation

### US Talks with Russia: New Compromises or Just a New Tone?

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Defense Secretary Robert Gates met with their Russian counterparts in Moscow recently to continue talks on missile defense and arms reduction. The talks followed an upbeat meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin and the man soon to take his place, Dmitri Medvedev.

The talks, which addressed renewal of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) that expires at the end of 2009 and the US' controversial plans to deploy new missile defense bases in two Eastern European countries, were sparked by a letter from President Bush to Putin. The Russian President called the letter a "very serious document," but its contents have yet to be revealed publicly.

Secretary Rice explained that the meeting with President Putin had a very "positive spirit," and that she looked forward to working more with Russian diplomats in an effort to "strengthen our partnership and overcome some of our differences." While the meeting was promoted in both countries as a positive turning point for Russian-US nuclear relations, some question if anything beyond the level of cordiality has changed.

President Putin explained that "in some of these issues we can probably dot the i's and reach final agreement." The issues on which the nations made progress include nuclear nonproliferation, trade, and counterterrorism. The positive rhetoric surrounding these talks will certainly lead to more opportunities for negotiation, but no agreement was reached on the controversial issue of US missile defense bases in former communist countries.

Thom Shanker, "Bush Sends Putin Missile Defense Offer," *New York Times*, March 18, 2008.

---

### Arab League Seeks Leverage in Creating a Nuclear-Free Middle East

At a recent meeting of Arab League nations in Cairo, the countries announced they would walk away from their nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) obligations if Israel ever officially announces its possession of nuclear weapons.

While Israel has neither confirmed nor denied the existence of its nuclear arsenal, it is generally believed across the globe that it is the only nation in the Middle East to possess nuclear weapons. This stems from a series of declassified CIA documents that date US knowledge of Israel's arsenal back to 1968, and a revealing interview Israeli Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, held with a German television network last year in which he eluded to Israel possessing nuclear weapons. While Olmert claimed that his words had been misinterpreted, very few people doubt that Israel possesses nuclear arms.

The Arab League nations, all of which are signatories to the NPT, announced that if Israel admitted to the existence of their arsenal, they would urge the UN Security Council to mandate immediate disarmament and the opening of the Israeli nuclear program for international inspection. If the UN did not comply with the Arab League's request, the countries would then walk away from their commitment to the NPT.

None of the countries in the Arab League are openly pursuing nuclear weapons, but several have expressed interest in beginning civilian nuclear programs with the help of other nations.

"Arab League Vows to Drop Out of NPT if Israel Admits It Has Nuclear Weapons," *Associated Press*, March 5, 2008.

## Nuclear Insanity

### US Nuclear Parts Shipped Accidentally Across the Globe

In August 2006, the US Defense Logistics Agency packaged and sent four nose-cone fuel assemblies to Taiwan instead of the four replacement Huey helicopter battery packs they had requested. The nose-cones, which trigger the nuclear warheads on Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missiles, were not noticed as missing until 18 months later.

Michael W. Wynn, Air Force Secretary, explained that the fuses did not appear to have been tampered with. The Air Force also claims that the technology in the nose-cones dates back to the 1960s and that this technology without accompanying US missiles poses no threat.

However, this incident, coupled with other recent nuclear security breaches, raises many questions about the organization, management and protocol of nuclear warheads and weapons parts storage in the US. In August 2007, the Air Force accidentally flew six armed warheads over the US from North Dakota to Louisiana. They did not realize their egregious error for 36 hours.

In the case of the nose-cones, several concerns arise. Of the highest concern to most senior Pentagon officials is that sensitive technology moved beyond US borders without any knowledge or approval of the US government, and then went undetected for 18 months.

Many experts outside the Pentagon worry about the message this type of error communicates to other nations. The shipment of nuclear-related technology can be seen as a breach of the US' obligations under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and has the potential to send threatening messages to China.

President of the Ploughshares Fund, Joseph Cirincione, wondered if the mistake might communicate to China that the US intends to help Taiwan build a nuclear program. "Imagine how we would feel if the Russians accidentally shipped warhead fuses to Tehran. We'd be going nuts right now. It would be hard for them to convince us that it was an accident."

In response to the incident, Defense Secretary Robert Gates has ordered a full inventory of all nuclear weapons and related materials in the US.

Josh White, "Nuclear Parts Sent to Taiwan in Error," *The Washington Post*, March 26, 2008.

---

## **General Proposes At Least 100 More Years of Nuclear Weapons**

On March 4, General Kevin Chilton, Commander of the United States Strategic Forces, announced that the US will need nuclear weapons as a deterrent until the 22nd century, and that the US should begin modernizing its nuclear stockpile immediately.

Chilton explained to reporters that "what we need is a modernized nuclear weapon to go with our modernized delivery platforms." Despite Congress' rejection of a similar request last year, the Bush administration has requested more than \$30 million in the FY 2009 budget for their Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW). Coupled with the request for funding the RRW, is another request of \$100 million to develop a plant which would manufacture triggers for the new warhead.

These proposals are controversial because they do not fall in line with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which calls for all Nuclear Weapons States to negotiate in good faith to disarm completely.

General Chilton justified his statements by saying, "As long as there are other countries in the world that possess enough nuclear weapons to destroy the United States of America, we will have to deter those countries." He added, "I'm the father of two children, and I would love to have them grow up in a nuclear-free world, absolutely, but I'm not for unilateral disarmament. I also want them to grow up free."

Chilton urged the US government to take on this issue now, instead of putting it off for future generations to deal with. The

United States currently has 4,075 deployed nuclear weapons.

“US Needs Nuclear Weapons Till End of 21st Century: General,” *Agence France Press*, March 4, 2008.

## Resources

### Determining the Local Cost of the Iraq War

The ongoing occupation of Iraq is costing a high number of lives on all sides. It is also costing US taxpayers billions of dollars every month.

The National Priorities Project has a feature on its website that will show how much the invasion and occupation has cost your town through the end of 2007, and what it is projected to cost in 2008.

For example, taxpayers in Santa Barbara, CA, where the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is headquartered, have already paid over \$157 million for the conflict.

To find out how much your town has paid, visit the National Priorities Project website at: [www.nationalpriorities.org/cms/publications/local\\_cost\\_of\\_the\\_iraq\\_war\\_through\\_fy2007](http://www.nationalpriorities.org/cms/publications/local_cost_of_the_iraq_war_through_fy2007).

---

### Back from the Margins: The Centrality of Nuclear Disarmament

The Middle Powers Initiative has released “[Back from the Margins: The Centrality of Nuclear Disarmament](#),” a briefing paper for the 5th meeting of the Article VI Forum, which was held in Dublin, Ireland, March 26-28, 2008.

The paper examines and identifies seven priority measures verified reduction of nuclear forces; standing down of nuclear forces (de-alerting); negotiation of a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty; bringing the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty into force; strengthened negative security assurances; regulation of nuclear fuel production and supply; and improved nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty governance.

To read the full paper, visit: [www.gsinsitute.org/mpi/pubs/A6F\\_Dublin\\_brief.pdf](http://www.gsinsitute.org/mpi/pubs/A6F_Dublin_brief.pdf).

---

### The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook

*The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* is now available online at <http://disarmament.un.org/e-yearbook.html>. The 2007 *Yearbook* has been produced in two parts. Part I contains all the resolutions and decisions of the previous General Assembly. Part II is comprised of main issues of multilateral consideration during the year, along with developments and trends. A print version will be available soon.

---

### Literary Guide to Nuclear Arms Control

The *American Journal of Physics* recently published a resource guide to literature on nuclear arms control. Compiled by Zia Mian and Alexander Glaser, the guide covers nuclear weapons, fissile material, nonproliferation, missiles and missile defense, verification, disarmament, and the role of scientists in arms control.

To read the full guide, visit: [www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/04/03\\_glaser\\_mian\\_control.pdf](http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/04/03_glaser_mian_control.pdf).

## Foundation Activities

## Foundation Representatives to Attend Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference

Two representatives of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will attend the 2008 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, from April 27-May 9.

Rick Wayman, Director of Programs, and Nick Roth, Director of the Washington, DC office, will attend dozens of meetings with diplomats and NGOs during the two-week PrepCom.

In addition, Nick Roth will chair a panel discussion on the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership and the need for a verifiable Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty on May 7.

---

## In-Security - The Nuclear Dilemma

“In-Security - The Nuclear Dilemma” is an exhibition that brings together major photographic work from around the world into a comprehensive educational exhibition on the history of nuclear technology; from the discovery of radioactivity in 1896 by Henri Becquerel to the present day proliferation and energy crisis.

The exhibition runs through July 29 in Geneva, Switzerland. For more information, please visit [www.nucleardilemma.org](http://www.nucleardilemma.org).

---

## NAPF Launches Online Disarmament Video Contest

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation launched the 2008 Swackhamer Disarmament Video contest on April 2. The contest, hosted on YouTube, seeks 2-3 minute videos addressing the following topic:

*“There are about 26,000 nuclear weapons in the world today. Use your creativity to make a short video about why US leadership is necessary to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.”*

**Cash prizes of \$250 - \$1,000 are offered for the top three videos.** Videos must be submitted by June 16. The contest is open to people of all ages and all countries.

For more information, visit our website at [www.wagingpeace.org/menu/programs/awards-&-contests/video-contest/2008/index.html](http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/programs/awards-&-contests/video-contest/2008/index.html).

Even if you do not plan to submit a video, join our group on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/group/2008Swackhamer](http://www.youtube.com/group/2008Swackhamer). Group members will be able to comment on contest entries as they come in.

---

## Think Outside the Bomb in Washington, DC

On Saturday, April 12, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, American University’s Nuclear Studies Institute, and Americans for Informed Democracy are sponsoring a Think Outside the Bomb conference at American University in Washington, DC.

The goal of Think Outside the Bomb is to give students and young professionals the opportunity to engage in discussions with policy experts, historians, and award-winning authors about nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons policy.

Speakers will include: **Martin Sherwin**, Professor of History, George Mason University and co-author of Pulitzer Prize winning *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*; **Zia Mian**, Physicist, Princeton University’s Program on Science and Global Security and Director of the Project on Peace and Security in South Asia; and **Hugh Gusterson**, Professor of Sociology, George Mason University and author of *People of the Bomb: Portraits of America’s Nuclear Complex*.

To apply for the conference, visit: [www.thinkoutsidethebomb.org/menu/conference/dc\\_spring\\_2008/apply.htm](http://www.thinkoutsidethebomb.org/menu/conference/dc_spring_2008/apply.htm).

For more information about Think Outside the Bomb, visit: [www.thinkoutsidethebomb.org](http://www.thinkoutsidethebomb.org).

## Quotes

“The regional [Middle East] security requires a lot of work and requires, in particular, the establishment of a zone free from nuclear weapons. This should apply to Israel, to Iran, to any other country in the region. This is the basic point in our policy. If the situation remains as it is, I believe that a viable security system, a viable security scheme for the region will be very difficult to achieve.”

-- Arab League Secretary General **Amr Moussa**

“...[Nuclear weapons provide] a credible deterrent umbrella under which conventional forces operate and, if deterrence fails, strike a wide variety of high-value targets with a highly reliable, responsive and lethal nuclear force... Desired effects include: Freedom for US and Allied forces to operate, employ, and engage at will...”

-- US Air Force *Strategic Planning Directive for Fiscal Years 2006-2023*

“As President, I will secure all loose nuclear materials around the world in my first term, seek deep cuts in global nuclear arsenals, strengthen the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and once more seek a world without nuclear weapons.”

-- Senator **Barack Obama**, “The World Beyond Iraq,” March 19, 2008.

\*\*\*You can view other quotes by Presidential candidates on nuclear weapons policy on our website: [www.wagingpeace.org/menu/resources/surveys/2008\\_pres\\_cand/cand\\_quotes\\_page.php](http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/resources/surveys/2008_pres_cand/cand_quotes_page.php).

## Editorial Team

Rachel Hitow  
David Krieger  
Nick Roth  
Vicki Stevenson  
Rick Wayman