

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

Issue #141 - April 2009

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Perspectives

Silence Is Indefensible

by David Krieger

Do we really trust our political leaders and those leaders who might come to power in the future to never unleash the fury of nuclear war? Do we believe that all leaders under all conditions, no matter how rushed or stressed, will refrain from using this power of annihilation? Perhaps we do, and this would explain the widespread complacency and silence.

Perhaps we just feel impotent to change the situation. This resignation is often summed up with the phrase, “the genie cannot be put back into the bottle.” So, we have loosed the genie of atomic might on the world, and we appear content to let it roam. We seem to lack the cleverness or motivation even to try to trick the genie back into the bottle.

To read more, visit: http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/03/06_krieger_silence_indefensible.php.

Use Your Imagination

by Jody Williams

Asked to opine about what I think one or two of the biggest issues facing us in the coming decades might be, I find myself needing to quote Arundhati Roy, in her anti-nuclear polemic “The End of Imagination.” Roy writes, “There’s nothing new or original left to be said about nuclear weapons. There can be nothing more humiliating for a writer of fiction to have to do than restate a case that has, over the years, already been made by other people in other parts of the world, and made passionately, eloquently, and knowledgeably.”

To read more, visit: http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/03/05_williams_use_imagination.php.

Nuclear Disarmament

Joint Statement by Obama and Medvedev on Nuclear Issues

On April 1, 2009, President Barack Obama of the United States and President Dmitriy Medvedev of Russia issued a joint statement outlining plans for increased cooperation on a number of key international issues, including nuclear disarmament.

Their statement read in part, “We committed our two countries to achieving a nuclear free world, while recognizing that this long-term goal will require a new emphasis on arms control and conflict resolution measures, and their full implementation by all concerned nations.”

To read the full statement, visit: http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/04/01_obama_medvedev_statement.php.

Disarmament Committee Urges US to Adopt No First Use Policy

The International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, a commission established by the governments of Australia and Japan, is urging the United States to develop a policy of “no first use” and to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. The commission has three stages for achieving a nuclear-free world. Its first step is the five-point recommendations for the United States, which also includes restoring the US-Russia strategic nuclear arms control process.

Under the three-stage structure, tactical nuclear weapons will be dramatically reduced and fissile material will be abolished

in the second stage. In the third stage, an international committee will be established that will be able to determine if any country is secretly developing weapons, and will impose punishments.

“Nonproliferation Panel Urges US to Adopt No First Use of Nuke Arms,” *Kyodo News International*, March 15, 2009.

India Links CTBT Signing to Nuclear Disarmament

India has asserted it would not sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) unless the world moves “categorically towards nuclear disarmament in a credible time-frame.”

India’s Special Envoy for Nuclear Issues and Climate Change, Shyam Saran, claimed that India has always been supportive of a nuclear test ban treaty, but does not support the CTBT because it is “not explicitly linked to the goal of nuclear disarmament.”

India is one of the 44 countries that must sign and ratify the CTBT in order for it to enter into force. The United States has signed but not ratified the treaty.

“India Links CTBT Signing to Nuclear Disarmament,” *The Times of India*, March 24, 2009.

Nuclear Proliferation

Central Asia Creates Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone

Five central Asian nations signed the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan held the fourth largest nuclear stockpile in the world.

This new pact prohibits research, development, production and possession of nuclear weapons. It states that each nation must adhere to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and ratify the Additional Protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

“Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Established in Central Asia,” *Global Security Newswire*, March 23, 2009.

Nuclear Insanity

US Submarine and US Ship Collide Near Iran

A nuclear-powered US submarine collided with a US Navy ship in the Strait of Hormuz near Iran on March 20. This was the second collision involving a US nuclear submarine in the Strait of Hormuz in two years.

A spokesman for the US Navy claimed that there was no damage to the nuclear propulsion plant of the submarine.

At least 15 people were injured on the nuclear submarine, and the collision caused the US Navy ship to spill 25,000 gallons of diesel fuel into the water.

Kasolowsky, Raissa, “US Nuclear Submarine Collides in Strait Near Iran,” *Reuters*, March 20, 2009.

Missile Defense

US Missile Defense Official Urges Realistic Tests

Peter Verga, a senior US defense policy official, has admitted that US missile defense tests are not realistic and do not simulate actual conditions. Verga called on the Missile Defense Agency to make tests operationally realistic to reassure the public of the tests' value.

Philip Coyle, a former top Pentagon test official, expressed skepticism that US missile defenses could shoot down a possible North Korean missile test. Coyle said, "What if North Korea launched their test missile at night or in bad weather or when the sun is shining at a disadvantageous direction? The MDA testing program has fallen far behind in addressing such issues."

Grossman, Elaine, "Policy Official Pushes US Missile Defenders to Improve Test Realism," *Global Security Newswire*, March 24, 2009.

Czech Government Falls

The government of the Czech Republic, long criticized for its support of US plans to place a missile defense radar in its territory, has fallen. The Czech Parliament passed a no-confidence vote in mid-March.

A strong campaign against the missile defense system was built over the past two years, led by ordinary citizens and mayors of many Czech towns. Nonviolent methods, including a hunger strike, were key in influencing Czech legislators to oppose the missile defense plans and bring down the government.

Tamas, Jan, "Czech Government Falls," *Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space*, March 24, 2009.

Nuclear Testing

France to Compensate Victims of Nuclear Testing

After almost 50 years of denying links between their nuclear weapons tests and health problems among the personnel working them, France has made the decision to "be true to its conscience" and pay compensation to those victims suffering due to radiation. Defense Minister Hervé Morin stated that about \$13.5 million has been set aside by the government to pay claims.

France carried out over 200 nuclear tests between 1960 and 1996, including in Algeria and French Polynesia, affecting up to 150,000 personnel. Morin stated in the newspaper *Le Figaro* that in the past, France believed that "opening the door to compensation would pose a threat to the very significant efforts made by France to have a credible nuclear deterrent." However, the country has decided to finally give some support to its many victims.

Cowell, Allan, "France to Pay Nuclear Test Victims," *New York Times*, March 25, 2009.

War and Peace

Japanese Man Certified as Double A-Bomb Survivor

Japanese officials have officially certified a 93 year-old man as a survivor of both US atomic bombings in August 1945.

Tsutomu Yamaguchi, a resident of Nagasaki, was in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 on a business trip. He was badly burned in the Hiroshima atomic bombing, but was able to return home to Nagasaki.

On August 9, the US dropped an atomic bomb on Nagasaki, which Yamaguchi also survived.

The atomic bomb attacks killed approximately 140,000 people in Hiroshima and 70,000 in Nagasaki.

“Japanese Man Certified as Double A-Bomb Victim,” *Associated Press*, March 24, 2009.

North Korea to Launch Rocket

North Korea has stated that it will launch a communications satellite on a multistage rocket between April 4 and 8 and warned Japan that intervening will be seen as an act of war.

South Korea, Japan and the United States believe North Korea is trying to test long-range missile technology, and they have all warned North Korea that it will face sanctions because of a UN Security Council resolution that bans it from engaging in ballistic missile activity. However, the rocket is already on the launch pad.

It is believed that the US has two destroyers near South Korea to monitor the rocket from the north. South Korea has one destroyer, and Japan has deployed battleships and interceptors off the northern Japanese coast to shoot down any rocket debris that may fall.

“Expert: N. Korea has several nuclear warheads,” *The Associated Press*, March 31, 2009.

Resources

Proliferation Implications of Nuclear Energy

Since the dawn of the atomic age, the United States has sought to encourage the use of nuclear energy while minimizing the proliferation risks associated with it. The latest US initiative that sets out to accomplish this is the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP), which, in its current form, potentially includes the spread of sensitive nuclear technologies around the globe.

This article, “The Global Nuclear Energy Partnership: Proliferation Concerns and Implications” by Jeff Lindemyer, examines the concerns surrounding the proliferation of these technologies and surveys their history both domestically and internationally. In identifying these concerns, the author argues that GNEP needs to be considered in the context of the Atoms for Peace program; that it erodes the successful thirty-year US position against reprocessing; and that it allows for the spread of technologies that are not proliferation-resistant.

To read the article, [click here](#).

Peace in Five Years

P:5Y, an organization dedicated to creating peace in five years (an exact deadline can be found on their homepage at www.p5y.org), has recently released a book entitled *Give Peace a Deadline: What Ordinary People Can Do To Cause World Peace in Five Years* by Amber Lupton and Nathan Otto. It describes the process to achieving peace in five years, shares resources, and lists what everyone can do to help. The book is available for free download at <http://p5y.org/pages/book>.

Foundation Activities

Appeal to President Obama Submitted on March 11

Representatives of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and the Campaign for a Nuclear Weapons Free World submitted the Appeal for US Leadership to the White House on March 11, 2009.

Together with over 100 organizations and 70,000 individuals, we sent a strong message to President Obama that work should start immediately on achieving a nuclear weapons-free world, and that we want him to take the lead to make it happen.

To read a report on the Appeal submission, visit <http://www.wagingpeace.org/appeal>.

New Features Added to Nuclear Files Website

The Foundation's Nuclear Files website (www.nuclearfiles.org) is a valuable educational resource for students, educators and other curious individuals. We have recently made some updates to the site that readers might find interesting:

- [Congressional testimony](#) on the 30th anniversary of the Three Mile Island disaster
- A list of [nuclear accidents](#) in the first decade of the 21st century
- An updated timeline for the year [2008](#)
- A roster of nuclear [disarmament proposals](#) from 2007-09
- "Nuclear Weapons, the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain?" - an [article](#) by William Lambers

Visit Nuclear Files often, as we are constantly adding new material to encourage a greater understanding of the Nuclear Age.

Foundation to Present at 2009 NPT PrepCom

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has organized a presentation at the United Nations in New York on May 6. The panel discussion, titled "Nuclear Abolition: Renewed Signs of Hope," will feature speakers from all over the world who will discuss the signs of hope emerging from their countries and regions.

Confirmed speakers include David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, and Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace.

The panel will take place during the 2009 Preparatory Committee of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which meets at the United Nations in New York from May 4-14.

2009 Annual Report Now Available

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has released its 2009 Annual Report, which is available to download on our website at http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/resources/publications/annual_report_2009.pdf.

The report summarizes the campaigns, programs, events and lectures we provide in pursuit of our mission of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Video and Poetry Contests Now Accepting Entries

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is proud to announce two contests for 2009 with cash prizes for winning entries.

The **Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest** seeks videos less than three minutes in length addressing the topic "**Breakthrough: Putting the Nuclear Genie Back in the Bottle.**" The deadline for entries is June 15, 2009. For more

information on the contest, visit <http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/programs/awards-&-contests/video-contest/2009/index.htm>.

The **Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Awards** encourage poets to explore and illuminate positive visions of peace and the human spirit. The deadline for entries is July 1, 2009. For more information on the poetry contest, visit <http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/programs/awards-&-contests/bmk-contest/index.htm>.

Quotes

“Anti-nuclear civil resistance is the right of every citizen of this planet. For the nuclear threat, attacking as it does every core concept of human rights, calls for urgent and universal action for its prevention.”

-- Judge **Christopher Weeramantry**, former Vice-President of the International Court of Justice and member of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation Advisory Council.

“It is time to press the reset button and to revisit the many areas where we can and should be working together with Russia.”

-- US Vice President **Joseph Biden**, speaking at a security conference in Munich in February 2009.

“I fully share the commitment of the US President Barack H. Obama to the noble goal of saving the world from the nuclear threat and see here a fertile ground for a joint work.”

-- Russian President **Dmitry Medvedev**, in a statement to the UN Conference on Disarmament on March 11, 2009.

“We cannot recognize Israel while they have nuclear weapons and we have modest weapons.”

-- Libyan President **Muammar Gaddafi**, speaking to the Arab League summit in March 2009. Libya gave up its nuclear weapons program in 2003.

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