

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

Moving from Omnicide to Abolition

by David Krieger

Nuclear weapons present humankind with an immense challenge, one far greater than most people understand. Many people realize, of course, that nuclear weapons are dangerous and deadly, and that in the past they were used to destroy the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with a single weapon demolishing each city. But few people have grappled with the proposition that these weapons are omnicidal; they go beyond suicide and genocide to omnicide, the death of all.

Despite the omnicidal capacity of nuclear weapons, leaders of a small number of countries continue to maintain and develop nuclear arsenals and rely upon these weapons for national security. They justify this reliance on the basis of nuclear deterrence, arguing that the weapons prevent war by the threat of retaliation with overwhelming destructive force. This argument has many flaws, the most important being that deterrence is only a theory and is subject to human fallibility.

To read more, [click here](#).

NATO Goes Anti-Nuclear?

by Alice Slater

Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Norway have called on NATO to review its nuclear policy and remove all US nuclear weapons currently on European soil under NATO's "nuclear sharing" policy. Despite US insistence on strict adherence to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which prohibits the transfer of nuclear weapons to non-nuclear weapons states, several hundred US nuclear bombs are housed in Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, and Turkey.

To read more, [click here](#).

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

Air Force Strategists Call for 90 Percent Cut in Nuclear Weapons

A new article by three Air Force insiders says that the US should unilaterally cut its nuclear arsenal by over 90 percent to 311 nuclear weapons. The article, which was published in *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, is written by James Forsyth and Gary Schaub, professors at the Air Force war colleges, and Colonel B. Chance Saltzman, chief of the Strategic Plans and Policy Division at Headquarters Air Force.

The report says, in part, "The United States could address military utility concerns with only 311 nuclear weapons in its nuclear force structure while maintaining a stable deterrence...it does not matter if Russia, who is America's biggest competitor in this arena, follows suit. The relative advantage the Russians might gain in theory does not exist in reality."

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

Bergman, Max, "[Air Force Strategists Say US Should Unilaterally Cut Nukes by 90 Percent](#)," *The Wonk Room*, March 17, 2010.

Directors of Nuclear Labs Contradict Scientists on Reliability of Nuclear Arsenal

The directors of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Sandia National Laboratory have written to Congress to warn that current programs to extend the life of US nuclear weapons are insufficient to guarantee the viability of the weapons for decades to come.

The letters from the directors of the three laboratories directly contradict a report by an independent group of scientists

called the Jasons, which suggested that current programs to extend the life of nuclear weapons would be sufficient for the next few decades. The lab directors implicitly endorsed the idea of creating an expensive new generation of “reliable” nuclear warheads.

Many skeptics have dismissed the letters as an attempt by the lab directors to ensure their laboratories will receive major new government funding and will survive far into the future.

Broad, William, “[Nuclear Labs Raise Doubts Over Viability of Arsenals](#),” *The New York Times*, March 26, 2010.

Nuclear Disarmament

New US-Russia Nuclear Reduction Agreement Reached

US President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev have approved a new arms control agreement to replace the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START). The new agreement will require both sides to reduce their arsenals to 1,550 deployed nuclear weapons. The US and Russia would each be allowed 700 nuclear delivery vehicles, including missiles, submarines and bombers, with another 100 delivery vehicles in reserve.

However, the two sides have agreed to count a bomber aircraft as one nuclear warhead regardless of how many nuclear warheads the bomber actually carries. An American B-52 bomber can carry 20 or more nuclear warheads. Under this accounting system, according to Peter Baker in *The New York*

Times, the US and Russia together could still deploy some 1,300 warheads beyond the 3,100 ceiling imposed on the two countries by the new treaty.

Commenting on the new agreement, President Obama said, “The new START treaty...cuts by about a third the nuclear weapons that the United States and Russia will deploy. It significantly reduces missiles and launchers. It puts in place a strong and effective verification regime.”

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation welcomed the new agreement as “an important step forward” but expressed concern that even after full implementation of the new treaty the US and Russia will both still have more than enough nuclear weapons to destroy civilization and most life on the planet. David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, has called for “negotiations in good faith on a Nuclear Weapons Convention for the phased, verifiable, irreversible and transparent elimination of nuclear weapons” to be completed by the year 2015.

“[New US-Russian Arms Control Deal Set for Signing](#),” *Global Security Newswire*, March 26, 2010.

Baker, Peter, “[Arms Control May Be Different Things on Paper and on the Ground](#),” *The New York Times*, March 30, 2010.

Senate to Debate New START Treaty in the Coming Months

Ellen Tauscher, US Undersecretary of State for Arms Control, has raised hopes that a new treaty to reduce US and Russian nuclear arsenals will be ratified by the end of 2010. The last arms control treaty between the US and Russia containing verification provisions, the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), expired in December 2009.

President Obama is scheduled to sign the treaty with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in Prague on April 8. Soon after, according to Tauscher, the treaty will be submitted to the Senate for debate and ratification. However, some Republicans in the Senate have said that they will not consider ratification of this new treaty until the Obama administration agrees to “modernize” the US nuclear arsenal by constructing new nuclear weapons production facilities.

[“US Hopes Nuclear Arms Pact To Be Ratified This Year,”](#) *Reuters*, March 29, 2010.

Nuclear Proliferation

Pakistan Wants a Nuclear Deal Like India's

Pakistan has called for many concessions in exchange for its cooperation in the “War On Terror,” including a nuclear deal similar to the one between the US and India made in 2008.

A spokesman for Pakistan’s ministry of foreign affairs, Abdul Basit, said, “Pakistan is an energy-deficit country and we’re looking for all sources, including nuclear, to meeting our requirements.”

Pakistan wants a nuclear deal primarily because it wants parity with India, according to some analysts. Prof. Shaun Gregory, director of the Pakistan security research unit at Bradford University, said, “Through the deal, India became a de facto member of the nuclear club and Pakistan doesn’t understand why it wasn’t offered the same thing. Pakistan has to position itself as an equal to India.”

Shah, Saeed, [“Pakistan Pushes US for Nuclear Technology Deal,”](#) *The Guardian*, March 22, 2010.

Missile Defense

Obama Administration Affirms Commitment to Missile Defense

Speaking at a symposium sponsored by the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and aerospace industry groups, Marine Gen. James Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Deputy Defense Secretary William Lynn and defense acquisition official Ashton Carter all rejected the idea of the MDA being abolished and gave their full support to the broad and rapid expansion of missile defense.

Cartwright also called for the “phased adaptive approach” of regional missile defense, such as the one the US is developing in Europe, being extended to the western Pacific and the Middle East.

It was widely reported that US missile defense plans had been preventing progress on US and Russian negotiations for a new START treaty. However, according to the White House, the new agreement imposes no limits on current or planned US missile defense developments. Russia, however, has reaffirmed its right to withdraw from the new agreement if the United States develops its missile defenses beyond a certain level.

Kreisher, Otto, [“Officials Outline Missile Defense Goals,”](#) *CongressDaily*, March 23, 2010.

[“Questions Persist Over Arms Pact’s Missile Defense Terms,”](#) *Global Security Newswire*, March 30, 2010.

Nuclear Energy and Waste

Fires at US Nuclear Power Plants on Three Mile Island Anniversary

On the 31st anniversary of the partial meltdown at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania, fires were reported at nuclear power plants in Ohio and South Carolina. Two consecutive fires at the H.B. Robinson nuclear power plant in South Carolina caused an emergency alert shutdown of one of the reactors. In Ohio, a fire at the Perry nuclear power plant burned for over three hours.

According to the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the highest risk of a nuclear meltdown comes from a fire. These risks are increasing as reactors age and become more vulnerable to failure.

“Fires Break Out at US Reactors on Three Mile Island Accident Anniversary,” *Beyond Nuclear*, April 1, 2010.

Resources

Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament: Shifting the Mindset

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has published a new briefing booklet entitled *Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament: Shifting the Mindset* in advance of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in May 2010.

The briefing booklet, authored by Foundation President David Krieger, explores new ways of thinking in relation to the NPT Review Conference and presents the case that nuclear weapons abolition is the only rational and sane position to adopt toward current nuclear threats. The briefing reviews a number of proposals to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and sets forth five priorities for agreement at the NPT Review Conference, including the commencement of good faith negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention for the phased, verifiable, irreversible and transparent elimination of nuclear weapons.

To download a copy of the briefing booklet, [click here](#).

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

Nuclear Abolition Day is June 5

Many individuals and organizations around the world, including the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, have endorsed the designation of June 5 as “Nuclear Abolition Day.”

The purpose of Nuclear Abolition Day is to demonstrate that people around the world overwhelmingly support nuclear abolition, and that the best way to achieve this goal is through a legally binding, verifiable Nuclear Weapons Convention.

To learn more about Nuclear Abolition Day and to read descriptions of events that will be happening around the world that day, [click here](#).

2009 United Nations Disarmament Yearbook Now Available

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs has announced the publication of *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, Volume 34 (Part I): 2009*. Part I of the yearbook compiles the resolutions and decisions of the previous General Assembly and the voting patterns of countries in the First Committee and the General Assembly.

Part II of the yearbook, available in early autumn of 2010, will summarize the main multilateral disarmament issues under consideration in the United Nations.

To download a PDF copy of Part I of the yearbook, [click here](#).

Foundation Activities

Many Activities in New York for the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference

David Krieger and Rick Wayman will travel to New York City to take part in the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference at the United Nations in May. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is involved in many projects and actions relating to the NPT:

- Publication and distribution of our [briefing booklet](#) “Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament: Shifting the Mindset”
- Organizing an event inside the United Nations on May 3 titled “From Omnicide to Abolition”
- Collecting signatures along with dozens of groups around the world on a [petition](#) for a nuclear weapon-free world
- Working with other NGOs around the world to organize a [public conference](#) on nuclear abolition in New York City on April 30 and May 1
- Helping to organize a [rally and march](#) for nuclear abolition in New York City on Sunday, May 2

For more information on any of these items, please contact the Foundation at (805) 965-3443 or click the links above.

Foundation's Nuclear Files Site to Be Archived by Library of Congress

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation’s educational website, www.nuclearfiles.org, has been selected as part of the Library of Congress’ historic collections of Internet materials. Nuclear Files details a comprehensive history of the Nuclear Age, offering interactive timelines and resources for students, teachers and the general public.

David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, highlighted the importance of this decision by the Library of Congress. He said, “A full and factual accounting of the development of the Nuclear Age helps us to understand current obstacles to nuclear disarmament. It also provides the context in which to create a roadmap for a safer future without nuclear weapons.”

World Future Council Disarmament Working Group

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation President David Krieger and Director of Programs Rick Wayman traveled to Hamburg, Germany in March to meet with the disarmament working group of the World Future Council (WFC). The working group brings together experts from all over the world and utilizes the three core strengths of the WFC: an integrated approach, a future orientation and a policy focus.

David Krieger, who is a Councilor on the World Future Council, is Chair of the working group. The group’s current project is a booklet for the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference featuring articles by Krieger, Jurgen Scheffran and Judge Christopher Weeramantry, and an [appeal](#) to world leaders.

Quotes

“As the government of the only country to have suffered atomic bombings, I must say it is pathetic. The state must apologize to the people for lying to them.”

-- **Sunao Tsuboi**, head of the Hiroshima chapter of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organization, referring to successive Japanese governments lying about allowing US nuclear weapons onto Japanese territories in violation of Japan’s three non-nuclear principles.

“It is of the highest priority for United States national security to ensure that scientists who have been engaged in weapons

of mass destruction-related research and engineering are encouraged and supported, in partnership with foreign governments, to engage in productive civil initiatives.”

-- Language from a bill sponsored by **Rep. Howard Berman** (D-CA) aimed partly at employing former weapons of mass destruction scientists in “productive” civilian enterprises.

“I encourage you...to take leadership roles in this effort to make society’s actions consistent with the realities of the nuclear age. In doing that, there is nothing to be lost and much - potentially the whole world - to be gained.”

-- US Supreme Court Justice **Sandra Day O’Connor** in a letter addressed to students at Stanford University encouraging them to get involved in working for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

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