

# THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

## Issue #165 - April 2011

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## Perspectives

### **Nuclear Deterrence: Impeding Nuclear Disarmament**

by David Krieger

In an opinion piece in the *Wall Street Journal*, published on March 7, 2011, four former high-level US policy makers – George Shultz, William Perry, Henry Kissinger and Sam Nunn – focused their attention on nuclear deterrence. They concurred that deterrence based on nuclear weapons is precarious, could destroy civilized life and raises enormous inhibitions against employing nuclear weapons. They concluded that the US and Russia were “lucky” that nuclear weapons were not used during the Cold War, and asked: “Does the world want to continue to bet its survival on continued good fortune with a growing number of nuclear nations and adversaries globally?”

Just a few weeks before the publication of this *Wall Street Journal* article on nuclear deterrence by George Shultz and his colleagues, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation convened a conference in Santa Barbara on “The Dangers of Nuclear Deterrence.” The conference concluded with a Santa Barbara Declaration: “[Reject Nuclear Deterrence: An Urgent Call to Action](#).” The Declaration states, “Nuclear deterrence is discriminatory, anti-democratic and unsustainable. This doctrine must be discredited and replaced with an urgent commitment to achieve global nuclear disarmament. We must change the discourse by speaking truth to power and speaking truth to each other.” In other words, we cannot find nuclear deterrence “precarious” on the one hand, and seek to modernize America’s nuclear forces under the guise of keeping them “safe, secure and reliable” on the other hand.

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

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## **Nuclear Reactor Catastrophe in Japan**

by Judge C.G. Weeramantry

The earthquake in Japan and the resulting damage to nuclear power plants have sent shock waves and a dire note of warning to the world’s entire population. Despite their obvious dangers, nuclear reactors are proliferating worldwide and sowing the seeds of pollution and congenital deformities for a thousand generations to come.

If people of the Stone Age had been able to cause damage to the environment and cause congenital deformities to our generation, we would have condemned them as savages, brutes and barbarians. Yet, even if they could have caused such damage, they could have had no idea of the irreparable harm they were causing to generations yet unborn. We, on the other hand, who are fully aware of the catastrophic damage we are causing to unborn generations, still proceed regardless, pursuing activities which, it is patently clear, will release these dangers sooner or later.

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

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## **Joint Statement on the Japanese Nuclear Disaster**

*This statement was signed by 50 members of the World Future Council and Right Livelihood Award laureates.*

We extend our deepest sympathies to the people of Japan who have experienced a devastating earthquake and tsunami followed by severe damage to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. We commend the brave individuals who are risking their lives to prevent the escape of massive amounts of radiation from the damaged nuclear reactors and spent fuel pools at Fukushima Daiichi.

Nuclear power programs use and create fissile materials that can be used to make nuclear weapons, and thus provide a proven pathway to nuclear weapons proliferation. Several countries have already used civilian nuclear programs to provide the fissile materials to make nuclear weapons. Other countries, particularly those with plutonium reprocessing and uranium enrichment facilities, could easily follow suit if they decided

to do so. The spread of nuclear power plants will not only make the world more dangerous, but will make more difficult, if not impossible, the goal of a nuclear weapons-free world.

To read the full statement and view the signatories, [click here](#).

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## US Nuclear Weapons Policy

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### **Deficit Hawks Overlook Bloated Nuclear Weapons Spending**

Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ), speaking at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in late March, expressed optimism that the \$85 billion promised for “modernization” of the nuclear weapons complex in exchange for ratification of the New START Treaty would not be affected by the drive to cut the federal deficit.

Sen. Kyl predicted that preserving the extra \$85 billion over 10 years for the nuclear weapons complex will be a bipartisan issue. He said, “It’s something that Republican leadership, Democratic leadership and the president are all very supportive of.” Kyl did not comment on the effect that this extra investment in nuclear weapons will have on other countries seeking nuclear weapons.

Matishak, Martin, “Kyl: Congress Will Not Short Change Nuclear Modernization Funds,” *Global Security Newswire*, March 29, 2011.

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### **Nuclear Weapons Protestors Sentenced to Federal Prison**

Five protestors who spent hours undetected on the Kitsap-Bangor Naval Base in Washington State in November 2009 were sentenced to federal prison recently for their actions. The five protestors were part of the Disarm Now Plowshares group, which sought to publicly resist and put on trial the United States’ continued use of nuclear weapons on Trident submarines.

The convicted protestors are: Sr. Anne Montgomery, 83; Fr. Bill Bischel, 81; Susan Crane, 67; Lynne Greenwald, 60; and Fr. Steve Kelly, 60. The protestors cut through a fence at the base and walked nearly four miles undetected before kneeling to pray in front of the nuclear weapons bunkers.

At the trial, the protestors were prohibited from introducing arguments about the medical effects of nuclear weapons, the illegality of nuclear weapons under international law and other key points.

For more information on the Disarm Now Plowshares, including contact information while they are in prison, [click here](#).

Quigley, Bill, “Two Grandmothers, Two Priests and a Nun Go on to a Nuclear Base,” *CounterPunch*, March 29, 2011.

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## Nuclear Disarmament

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### **Experts Declare Nuclear Weapons Contrary to International Law**

The Simons Foundation and the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms recently hosted a conference exploring nuclear weapons and international humanitarian law. Signed by eminent experts in international law and diplomacy, the Vancouver Declaration affirms that nuclear weapons are incompatible with international humanitarian law. The declaration observes that with their uncontrollable blast, heat, and radiation effects, nuclear weapons are indeed weapons of mass destruction that by their nature cannot

comply with fundamental rules forbidding the infliction of indiscriminate and disproportionate harm.

Entitled “Law’s Imperative for the Urgent Achievement of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World,” the declaration concludes by calling on states to commence and conclude negotiations on the global prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons as mandated by the legal obligation unanimously proclaimed by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 1996. An annex to the declaration specifying the applicable law states: “It cannot be lawful to continue indefinitely to possess weapons which are unlawful to use or threaten to use, are already banned for most states, and are subject to an obligation of elimination.”

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

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## Nuclear Insanity

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### German Broadcaster Won't Show Homer Simpson Nuclear Gaffes

The German broadcaster of *The Simpsons* has decided not to air episodes of the cartoon showing nuclear power disasters because of sensitivity around the current situation at Japan’s Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

In the satirical cartoon, accident-prone Homer Simpson is in charge of safety at the town’s nuclear power plant. Some episodes show nuclear-related problems such as dumping nuclear waste on a playground, using plutonium as a paperweight and mutated animals.

Many people in Germany are opposed to the use of nuclear energy. In late March, 250,000 people demonstrated in Germany against nuclear power.

“D’Oh! ‘Nuclear’ Simpsons episodes off air in Germany,” *Agence France Presse*, March 28, 2011.

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## Nuclear Energy and Waste

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### Major Nuclear Power Accident in Japan

On March 11, a massive earthquake off the coast of Japan triggered a tsunami that swept away everything in its path. The Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, consisting of six nuclear reactors, was affected by the earthquake and hit by the tsunami. The wall of water knocked out power and backup power to the plant, leading to a series of crises, including partial meltdowns and radiation releases, that have continued to unfold over the past weeks.

Radiation levels are extremely high in the areas around the plant, and there are fears that additional radioactivity from breached reactor cores and/or spent fuel pools will be released. Reactor 3 at the plant operates on MOX fuel, which contains plutonium. Plutonium is one of the most toxic substances in the world, and its presence in Reactor 3 adds an additional dimension of danger to an already out of control situation. Reliable information is difficult to come by in the midst of the chaos, but it is clear that this is a very serious accident that will have consequences for years to come.

It remains to be seen whether this accident will be more severe than the accident at Chernobyl 25 years ago. The accident in Japan has raised doubts about the future of nuclear power in many countries.

For more information on the accident in Japan and to see the Foundation’s action alert on the issue, [click here](#).

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## **Texan Billionaire Plans Private Nuclear Waste Dump**

Texas billionaire Harold Simmons plans to open a nuclear waste dump in West Texas, despite objections from environmentalists and the state's own experts. In 1995, Simmons bought a hazardous waste disposal company, Waste Control Specialists (WCS), and set about converting an isolated spot in Andrews County into a nuclear waste dump. After six years of lobbying, WCS convinced the state legislature to pass a law authorizing private companies to be licensed to handle radioactive waste.

Two licenses sought by WCS would allow it to accept a total of 60 million cubic feet of low-level radioactive waste from federal and state sources, including nuclear reactors, weapons programs, and hospitals. Engineers and geologists from Texas strongly object to the licenses, citing concerns that radioactive material could contaminate groundwater.

Harkinson, Josh, "A Texas-Sized Plan for Nuclear Waste," *Mother Jones*, March 29, 2011.

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## **War and Peace**

### **India and Pakistan Resume Peace Talks**

Peace talks between nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan resumed in late March after an extended break in talks following the November 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai. In that incident, India accused Pakistan of not having done enough to prevent the Pakistan-based extremists from launching the Mumbai attacks.

"Pakistan, India Resume Peace Talks," *Global Security Newswire*, March 28, 2011.

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## **Resources**

### **Removal of US Tactical Nuclear Weapons from Europe**

A new report from IKV Pax Christi details the positions of all 28 NATO states on the deployment of US tactical nuclear weapons in Europe.

The report, entitled *Withdrawal Issues: What NATO countries say about the future of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe*, features interviews and comments from the 28 NATO delegations and NATO staffers. The report shows that there is sufficient political will within NATO to end the deployment of US tactical nuclear weapons in Europe. US nuclear weapons are currently on the territories of Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey.

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

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### **How Are Your Tax Dollars Being Spent?**

On April 18, 2011, federal income taxes are due in the United States. This Tax Day publication from the National Priorities Project illustrates how the federal government spent each tax dollar. Direct military spending totaled 27.4%, not including veterans' benefits, interest on debt from past wars and certain other military-related activities.

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

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## Chernobyl: A Million Casualties

April 26 marks the 25th anniversary of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl. EnviroVideo has released an important new video, "Chernobyl: A Million Casualties." This 29-minute program is based on the book recently published by the New York Academy of Sciences that concludes that, based on now available medical data, 985,000 people died as a result of the Chernobyl disaster, as of 2004.

To watch the video, [click here](#).

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## Foundation Activities

### Peace Poetry Awards - Deadline July 1

The Foundation's Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Contest is accepting entries through July 1. This annual series of awards encourages poets to explore and illuminate positive visions of peace and the human spirit.

For more information on the contest and to read winning poems from previous years, [click here](#).

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### Peace Leadership Program Update

The second episode of *The American Unity Project* featuring the work of NAPF Peace Leadership Director Paul Chappell is now available online. This episode takes a personal look at what has driven Paul to become an outstanding peace leader. It also shows the work being done at the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and some of the other work people are doing to wage peace. This episode explores some of the problems with the peace movement, how we can make the peace movement more effective, and why waging peace is not just a slogan - it also has to be a lifestyle.

For more information on *The American Unity Project* and to watch Episodes 1 and 2, [click here](#).

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### Follow NAPF on Facebook and Twitter

Follow the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation on Facebook and Twitter to stay up to date on Foundation activities as well as the latest nuclear news and opinion. [Click here](#) to find us on Facebook and [here](#) to find us on Twitter - and tell your friends!

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## Quotes

"Currently, the UK has a window of opportunity to deal with the nuclear material and spent fuel management and to maximise the value of its existing assets. The renaissance in new nuclear build creates an advantageous way of using these legacy materials as fuel for new nuclear power plants."

-- **Sir David King**, former chief scientist for the UK government. Speaking nearly three weeks after the disaster at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, Sir David went on to say that the case for building new nuclear power plants "has never been stronger."

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"You can't just say we're only going to worry about the next 100 years. These things are forever. And we've got to worry about forever and see that we should do the right thing."

-- **Sen. Dianne Feinstein** (D-CA), speaking at a Senate hearing examining the accident at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

## Editorial Team

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