

THE SUNflower

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“Let me ask some concrete questions: How many nuclear weapons states other than the United States have prescribed the use of nuclear weapons in conventional conflicts and developed new types of nuclear weapons compatible with its combat scenarios? None. Which other nuclear weapon states have named non-nuclear weapon states parties to the NPT as the targets of their nuclear weapons? None. Which other nuclear weapons states have sought to utilize outer space for nuclear purposes more than the United States? None. How many Nuclear weapon States other than the United States have legislatively rejected the CTBT and practically doomed its future? Why did the United States through its unilateral withdrawal from the ABM and its abrogation of step 7 of the 13 steps threaten the strategic stability of the world? Which NPT party other than the United States has left such a record of undermining so many international instruments, on disarmament and other issues alike? None.

“Are these not the relevant questions that should be dealt with at the PrepCom and other NPT meetings? Let’s be examples for others by deeds, not words and polemic.”

Perspective

FACING THE FAILURES OF THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY REGIME

By David Krieger and Devon Chaffee, April 23, 2003

The Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty regime obligations are having less and less success in restraining the irresponsible behavior of nations, especially the treaty’s Nuclear Weapon States (NWS), and the United States in particular. As NWS move further away from their obligations under the treaty, they are simultaneously weakening incentives for non-nuclear weapon state parties to the treaty to remain within the NPT regime. If such regressions continue, they will inevitably lead to an abandonment of disarmament goals and the gradual lack of interest by non-nuclear weapons states parties to remain within the regime’s boundaries. It is time for members of the NPT regime to issue a clear statement outlining how the treaty is being undermined and by whom.

For the full article please see:

www.wagingpeace.org/articles/03.04/0423chaffee_np.htm

IRAN’S STATEMENT TO MEMBERS OF THE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY

Take Action

CELEBRATE MOTHERS’ DAY; A DAY FOR PEACE

Did you know that the first Mothers' Day was declared by Julia Ward Howe in 1870 as a day for peace and disarmament? Make this Mothers' Day special by reminding your Mom of the day's true origin.

On May 12 you can:

-Send your mother a copy of Howe's original Mother's Day Proclamation. For a copy of the proclamation, go to <http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/julia-ward-howe.htm>

-Give your mother a membership to the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, giving her access to our monthly e-newsletter, the Sunflower, and other useful Foundation materials. To signup online go to:

<https://www.ndic.com/wagingpeace/supportus.htm>

Have a Happy Mothers' Day!

IS THERE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN YOUR COMMUNITY? CONDUCT A CIVILIAN WEAPONS INSPECTION

Inspectors found no resumed weapons of mass destruction programs in Iraq, but such activities continue unchecked and unrestrained at sites in the US, Europe, South Asia and elsewhere. Is your local defense contractor working on nuclear capable missile designs? Is your local university engaged in morally questionable weapons research? Could your local military base be home to weapons of mass destruction? Civilians all over the world are demanding to know what their local facilities are up to and what their governments are hiding behind locked doors by conducting civilian weapons inspections. Civilian inspections bring attention to weapons activities that are normally disregarded by the main stream media. They also alert communities and policymakers to the need for greater openness in military activities.

For information on how to find a facility in your area and for tips on how to organize a successful civilian weapons inspection, see our website at:

<http://www.wagingpeace.org/new/getinvolved/civilianinspections.htm>

Nuclear Weapons

COUNTRIES GATHER AT PIVOTAL NONPROLIFERATION TREATY MEETING

From 28 April-9 May, States Parties to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) gather for the first time since North Korea announced its withdrawal from the treaty last January and since the US-led forces invaded Iraq in March. The New Agenda Coalition began the open debate at the NPT Review Conference Preparatory Committee (Prep COM) with a strong call for the elimination of nuclear weapons. The statement, issued on behalf of Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, South Africa, Sweden and New Zealand, also included an intense critique of the U.S.-Russian Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty's (SORT) lack of transparency or irreversibility measures. Discussion of the Iraq War was muted, though several countries voiced their support for multilateral diplomatic solutions to proliferation issues over the unilateral use of force. In the first week of the PrepCom, countries also voiced varying degrees of concern over North Korea's defection from the treaty.

In their opening statements, the United States and Iran exchanged accusations, with the United States claiming that Iran is advancing a clandestine nuclear weapons program and with Iran pointing to the United States' continuing abrogation of its disarmament obligations. As the PrepCom

progresses, further analysis will be available on www.wagingpeace.org. Daily coverage of the PrepCom can be found on the Reaching Critical Will website at <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/npt/nptindex.html#2003>

OFFICIALS SPEAK OUT AGAINST NEW US TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The development of new tactical nuclear weapons is being fiercely debated as the US House and Senate Armed Services committees are set to vote on the relevant legislation on 7 May. The Defense Authorization bill currently includes provisions that would end a ban on low-yield nuclear weapons development, and provide \$15 million to continue development of the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, intended to be used against deeply buried targets.

Senator Edward Kennedy stated on 29 April that the Bush administration's plans to develop a new generation of tactical nuclear weapons could trigger a new arms race, and would likely be used as an excuse to resume nuclear testing. Dr. Sidney Drell, who served as a consultant to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and currently sits on the National Nuclear Security Administration advisory committee, also stated that using nuclear bombs to destroy biological or chemical weapons stored deep beneath the earth was a "terrible idea." In late April, UN Under-Secretary General for Disarmament Jayantha Dhanapala called the US efforts to develop new tactical nuclear weapons a step backward, suggesting that the Bush administration's foreign policy could provoke other nations to develop nuclear arms.

Sources: Deutsche Welle, 27 April 2003; Oakland Tribune, 2 May 2003; Guardian, 30 April 2003; Tri-Valley Herald, 30 April 2003

NORTH KOREA CLAIMS TO POSSESS NUCLEAR WEAPONS

At recent talks with the US and China in Beijing, North Korean negotiators reportedly stated that North Korea currently possesses nuclear weapons, threatening to export them or conduct tests to demonstrate their capabilities. The CIA has long believed that North Korea may have two nuclear weapons developed in the late 1980's or early 1990's, but the recent remarks appear to be the first time North Korea has explicitly boasted about such capabilities. According to reports from Chinese officials, North Korea also offered to scrap its nuclear weapons program, suspend ballistic missile tests and stop missile exports if the US abandoned its hostile attitude towards North Korea. Whether North Korea is sincere in its offer and whether the United States will take advantage of the opportunity remains to be seen.

North Korea's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation

Treaty became official on 10 April, under Article X of the treaty. North Korean officials had argued that its withdrawal was official immediately when the country's announced its intention to withdraw on 10 January.

Source: New York Times, 1 May 2003; Washington Post, 25 April 2003; Reuters, 28 April 2003; Associated Press, 30 April 2003

US LAB PRODUCES NUCLEAR WEAPON PITS, UNIVERSITY TO FIGHT FOR LAB MANAGEMENT

On 22 April, US officials announced that a leading nuclear weapons lab, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), had resumed production of plutonium pits for nuclear weapons for the first time in 14 years. LANL is one of five facilities under consideration to become home to the DOE's proposed permanent modern pit facility. As the US already has approximately 15,000 pits in strategic reserve that appear to be stable and long-lived, there is no apparent need for the pit production unless the US plans to construct new nuclear weapons.

On 30 May, Spencer Abraham, Secretary of the US Department of Energy, also announced that the DOE will require competitive bids for LANL's management contract for the first time, beginning in 2005. The Department has previously directly requested the University of California to manage the labs, and the University has always justified its involvement in the nuclear weapons complex by claiming that the management was undertaken as a public service for the federal government. Now, however, if the University bids for LANL's management, which it will likely do, it will be actively pursuing a role in the development of weapons of mass destruction. University of California President Richard C. Atkinson was quoted by the Associated Press as stating that his "instinct continues to be to compete—and to compete hard" to keep the lab contract and that, "We believe, with every fiber of our institutional being, that continued UC management is in the absolute best interests of the nation's security." The bid competition follows a series of scandals concerning the mismanagement of lab funds.

To find out more about the Foundation's UC Nuclear Free project go to: <http://www.ucnuclearfree.org>

Source: Los Angeles Times, 23 April 2003; Washington Post, 1 May 2003; Current Argus, 22 April 2003

Invasion of Iraq

IRAQI CHILDREN CONTINUED VICTIMS OF CLUSTER BOMBS, US DEFENDS USE

Human rights and humanitarian organizations continue to report hundreds of civilian casualties in Iraq from cluster bombs and similar devices that failed to explode when

dropped, posing a landmine-like risk to civilians. Many of these casualties have been curious children who easily mistake the small bomblets for toys, picking up and accidentally detonating the bombs. The presence of bombs has also inhibited the work of Iraqi farmers in some areas who have delayed harvesting their fields for fear of encountering unexploded bombs.

On 23 April, Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, admitted to using these imprecise weapons in urban areas, claiming they were effective and necessary. The Mines Advisory Group, a British-based civilian organization clearing cluster bombs in Iraq, has reported that the United States refuses to provide it with a map of cluster bomb targets in order to facilitate the search for the unexploded ordinances.

Sources: Lost Angeles Times, 26 April 2003; Christian Science Monitor, 16 April 2003; Long Island Newsday, 15 April 2003

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION NOT FOUND IN IRAQ

After several false alarms and months of searching, coalition forces have found no evidence of continuing chemical, biological or nuclear weapons programs in Iraq. As disarming Iraq of WMD was the Bush administration's main justification for invading Iraq, the lack of subsequent evidence that such arsenals ever existed brings the credibility of the Bush administration even further into question. Though the US plans to set up a weapons inspection team in Baghdad by early June, the conclusions of such inspections are not likely to be trusted by the international community in the absence of independent UN-led investigations.

Sources: New York Times, 28 April 2003; Washington Post, 26 April 2003; Bloomberg, 22 April 2003

US GENERAL MAY BE TRIED FOR WAR CRIME IN IRAQ

Leader of US and Coalition Forces, General Tommy Franks, and other officials could face trial in Belgium for war crimes committed during the invasion of Iraq. A Belgian lawyer has stated that he is preparing to lodge a case under the genocide law which gives the Belgian courts universal jurisdiction to try cases of genocide, war crimes and human rights violations.

The atrocities that Franks and other Coalition officials may be charged with include:

-The failure to prevent the mass looting of hospitals in Baghdad after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime.

-Eyewitness testimony of U.S. troops firing upon an ambulance.

-The bombing of a marketplace in Baghdad that killed scores of civilians.

-The attack on a civilian bus with an "energy weapon" in the town of al-Hillah, killing at least 10 passengers.

The Bush administration has reacted angrily to the suggestion that such charges could be issued, making it clear that if prosecution is sought, they will regard it as a major diplomatic incident.

Sources: *BBC*, 29 April 2003; *Washington Times*, 28 April 2003; *Reuters*, 19 March 2003

Missiles & Missile Defense

US MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY ASKS CONGRESS FOR BLANK CHECK

Legislation currently before Congress would allow the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) to transfer money between systems within the program without getting Congressional approval. The attempt is meeting resistance from legislators who argue that such flexibility will make it nearly impossible to track missile defense spending and will be effectively writing the MDA a blank check. Recent changes to flight test plans for the Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system are coming under the scrutiny of Congress as the system is to be deployed in September 2004. The majority of MDA programs have already run far over budget and over schedule. On 28 April, the MDA's director, Air Force Lt. Gen. Ronald Kadish, also announced that the agency would be free to enlarge the Ground-based Midcourse Defense, adding interceptor silos without giving any further consideration to environmental concerns.

Sources: *Aerospace Daily*, 30 April 2003 & 29 April 2003; *Inside Missile Defense*, 30 April 2003

CANADA CONSIDERS JOINING US MISSILE DEFENSE

High-level Canadian officials have signaled that Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's government will soon deal with the issue of US missile defense, hinting that the Cabinet will likely support Canada joining the program. Defense Minister John McCallum has stated, "The geopolitics have changed radically, the Americans are moving ahead anyway and a case can be made for Canadian security and for our joint defense of the continent that this might be a good idea for Canada." The issue may come before Chrétien's cabinet as early as the first week in May, and the outcome is likely to be influenced by a desire to repair ties with the United States after disagreements over the invasion of Iraq.

Source: *Toronto Star*, 29 April 2003

INDIA TESTS NUCLEAR CAPABLE MISSILE

In the second test in the past month, India successfully tested its nuclear-capable surface-to-surface Prithvi missile on 30 April. Shortly after the test, India offered to re-establish full diplomatic ties with Pakistan, ties that were downgraded following an attack on the Indian parliament in December 2001.

Sources: *Miami Herald*, 30 April 2003; *Reuters*, 29 April 2003; *Voice of America News*, 2 May 2003

Nuclear Waste & Energy

US AND RUSSIA MOVE FORWARD WITH MOX FUEL PROJECT

The United States is moving forward with a plan to turn weapons grade plutonium into mixed oxide fuel (MOX) to be burned in commercial nuclear power plants at Duke Energy's Savannah River Site in Charlotte, North Carolina. The United States has abandoned a safer disposal process of immobilization in order to fulfill agreements under which both the US and Russia are obligated to turn 34 metric tons of the material into MOX fuel. The plan, which necessitates transportation during which the materials are susceptible to theft and loss, also subsidizes commercial interests and bureaucracies in both countries looking to profit by recycling surplus plutonium into an expanding nuclear power industry. Groups such as Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League of North Carolina and Greenpeace are actively opposing the project.

The movement on the MOX project comes at a time when House Republicans have moved to block the expansion of the US-Russian Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, a program securing nuclear materials in the former Soviet Union, by cutting some \$55 million dollars already approved in the Senate.

Sources: *Reuters*, 23 April 2003; *Bellona*, 8 April 2003; *Review Journal*, 4 April 2003; *Augusta Chronicle*, 16 April 2003 & 24 April 2003

US LOOKS TO EXPAND NUCLEAR POWER INDUSTRY

Energy legislation in the US Senate is likely to provide federal loan guarantees for up to half of the cost of building as many as six new nuclear power plants within the United States. The Bush administration has made expansion of nuclear power a prime goal of its energy policy, despite the fact that nuclear power reactors remain economically unviable, unsafe and create large amounts of toxic waste. The industry gave nearly \$9 million to congressional candidates and political parties from January 2001 through early 2002. As long as the price of building and maintaining a nuclear reactor remains high, many economists predict that no economic interest is likely to request the available loans.

Source: Los Angeles Times, 4 May 2003

Depleted Uranium

DEPLETED URANIUM WEAPONS USED IN WAR AGAINST IRAQ

According to the Scottish Sunday Herald, British and American coalition forces are using depleted uranium (DU) shells in the current war against Iraq. DU has been linked to contamination of land, causing ill-health and cancers among the soldiers using the weapons, the armies they target and civilians. According to an August 2002 report by a UN subcommission, the use of DU weapons breaches humanitarian and human rights law. On 28 March a DU shell was involved in a friendly fire incident that killed one British soldier and injured three others.

Source: Sunday Herald, 30 March 2003

Nuclear Insanity

GERMANY OKAYS REACTOR POSING MAJOR PROLIFERATION RISK

The German government has approved the operation of a nuclear research reactor whose fuel could be readily diverted to make nuclear weapons. The scientific value of the reactor, which will be fueled by highly enriched uranium (HEU), is highly questionable. Franz Fujara, a physicist at the Technical University of Darmstadt has stated, "Basically, this is the technology of the 1960s. There is no scientific requirement any longer for using HEU in a research reactor." *Source: Guardian, 1 May 2003* *New Documents Released on Eve of Chernobyl Disaster Anniversary*

Nuclear History

NEW DOCUMENTS RELEASED ON EVE OF CHERNOBYL DISASTER ANNIVERSARY

Days before the 17th anniversary (26 April 2003) of the disaster at Ukraine's Chernobyl nuclear reactor, a Ukrainian intelligence agency declassified several documents that show design flaws, shoddy workmanship, and major violations of safety rules at the plant, exposing 29 accidents at the plant between 1977 and 1981. Russia has responded by claiming that post-Soviet Ukraine has not properly maintained the concrete canopy covering the faulty reactor, leaving holes through which radiation could leak.

Preceding the disaster's anniversary, 5,000 Chernobyl victims marched in downtown Kiev protesting the continuing lack of funding for cleanup and victim compensation, including housing and healthcare. The United Nations estimates that 15,000 to 30,000 people living in the contaminated zones have since died due to radiation exposure. Russian activists claim that these figures do not include the 300,000 Russians that worked to clean up the disaster and have now fallen victim to radiation related illnesses.

For more information see <http://www.nuclearfiles.org>
Sources: World Environment News, 28 April 2003; Christian Science Monitor, 25 April 2003

Foundation News

DEADLINES FOR FOUNDATION WRITING CONTESTS APPROACHING

Be sure to get your submissions in for the approaching deadlines of two NAPF writing contests. The deadline for the Swackhamer Peace Essay Contest is 1 June. Open to high school students worldwide, applicants to this annual contest are invited to write an essay on an annual topic of peace and world security. Three prizes totaling \$3,000 are awarded. For contest guidelines and the topic, go to: http://www.wagingpeace.org/new/programs/awardscontests/swackhamer/swack_2003_rules.htm

The deadline for the Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Awards is 1 July. This contest encourages poets to explore and illuminate positive visions of peace and the human spirit, and is open to people worldwide, with prizes totaling \$1,400 awarded in three age categories. For contest guidelines go to: http://www.wagingpeace.org/new/programs/awardscontests/bmk/BMK_2003_rules.htm

ADVOCACY COORDINATOR ATTENDS TREATY REVIEW IN GENEVA

Devon Chaffee, the Foundation's Research and Advocacy Coordinator, traveled to Geneva, Switzerland at the end of April to attend the opening debate of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference Preparatory Committee (PrepCom). While at the United Nations, Devon distributed a proprietary analysis on the status of the NPT to country delegates and other participating organizations, and observed and reported on the plenary discussion. While in Geneva, Devon also attended the international steering committee meetings of the Middle Powers Initiative and the International Peace Bureau, connecting with European partners in the struggle for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

UC NUCLEAR FREE STUDENTS CONFRONT CHANCELLORS

In early April, University of California (UC) Santa Barbara students drafted a letter to Chancellor Yang based on the UC Nuclear Free Statement of Unity, collecting 100 signatures in support of disarming and democratizing the nuclear laboratories managed by the University system. On 9 April, the students met with Chancellor Yang, to discuss the letter point-by-point. Michael Cox, a junior at UCLA, also confronted UCLA Chancellor Albert Carnesale, a defense policy expert, about his stance on the UC's role in supporting the Bush administration's nuclear weapons policy. Cox followed up his comment with a formal letter for which he received a prompt reply.

On 20 April, Michael Coffey, NAPF's Youth Outreach Coordinator, facilitated a meeting with UC San Diego students, providing an introduction to the UC Nuclear Free Campaign and strategizing specific next steps for UCSD student leaders. Leah Wells, NAPF's Peace Education Coordinator, also facilitated a UC Nuclear Free Teach-In at UC Santa Barbara on 7 April.

SUPPORT THE NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

Support the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation by making a tax-deductible contribution at: <https://www.ndic.com/wagingpeace/supportus.htm>

Resources

For a map of nuclear weapon sites from throughout the world see the website of Greenpeace International at <http://archive.greenpeace.org/wmd/>

Greenpeace has also issued a deck of playing cards with the pictures of the known nuclear "bad guys" to provide guidance to the NPT delegates about who needed to dis-

arm. For more information on the cards go to http://www.greenpeace.org/features/details?item_id=226498

In-depth reports from the NPT PrepCom can be found on the Acronym Institute's website at <http://www.acronym.org.uk/npt/index.htm>

Visit the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's updated Nuclear Files website. Visitors can now easily navigate the site, take a journey through the Nuclear Age and learn about key issues. The site also contains a section for educators with sample course syllabi incorporating lessons from our nuclear history into the classroom. Visit the redesigned and user-friendly Nuclear Files at <http://www.nuclearfiles.org>

Visit the ever-evolving website of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at <http://www.wagingpeace.org>. We encourage you to check in frequently at the New Items link on the home page, the Activities Calendar, the Action Page and all the other great sections on the site.

Quotable

"The only real guarantee against the use of any weapons of mass destruction anywhere, including nuclear weapons, is their complete elimination and the assurance that they will never be used or produced again."

-New Agenda Statement at the NPT Review Conference
PrepCom, Geneva

Editors

Devon Chaffee
David Krieger

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To receive our monthly e-newsletter by email subscribe at <https://www.ndic.com/wagingpeace/supportus.htm>. Note, you can become a member and receive the Sunflower at no cost.

