

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

Mourning the Tragic Death of Nagasaki Mayor Iccho Itoh

by David Krieger

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation mourns the death of Nagasaki Mayor Iccho Itoh, whose life was cut short by an assassin's bullet. With this tragedy, the world has lost a great peace leader. As the three-term mayor of the last city to suffer atomic devastation, he became a leading spokesperson for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mayor Itoh was the vice president of Mayors for Peace and a leader of their global campaign to eliminate nuclear weapons by the year 2020. The Foundation honored Mayors for Peace and the leadership of Mayor Itoh and Hiroshima Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba with our 2004 World Citizenship Award.

To read more, please visit:

www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/04/21_mohan_nuclearism_and_the_legacy.htm.

Nuclear Weapons Dialogue Socrates and the President

by David Krieger

On a pleasant spring day, Socrates ran into the President while on a stroll through Washington. After exchanging greetings, the following dialogue ensued.

Socrates: What are nuclear weapons?

President: They are the most destructive weapons ever invented by man. They are considered a great technological achievement.

Socrates: What do you use them for?

President: We use them to protect ourselves.

To read more, please visit:

www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/04/05_krieger_nuclear_weapons_dialogue.htm.

Nuclearism and the Legacy of U.S. Media Coverage of Hiroshima

by Uday Mohan

On August 6, 1945, the bomb that we are trying to think outside of here today was used as a weapon of mass destruction for the first time in history. The United States, engaged in a fierce war with Japan, dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, destroying it almost entirely. The blast, heat, and radiation killed more than 140,000 people. The White House delivered the dramatic news about the dawn of the atomic age through a press release of a presidential statement. The press release set the tone for much of the media coverage to come in the final days of the war and the months after. It emphasized vengeance as a motive for bombing Hiroshima. It focused on the technological achievement in producing the bomb. At the same time it omitted any mention of radiation, a key feature of the new weapon.

This speech was presented at the "Think Outside the Bomb" National Youth Conference on Nuclear Issues, Washington DC, April 21, 2007

To read more, please visit:

www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/04/21_mohan_nuclearism_and_the_legacy.htm

Nuclear Proliferation

Reliable Replacement Warhead Raises Questions in Congress

On April 18th, Senators publicly raised questions about the Bush Administration's proposed plan to build new nuclear weapons.

As doubts about the necessity of the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program increase, the Senate Appropriations energy and water subcommittee questioned Thomas D'Agostino, administrator for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). Although D'Agostino attempted to placate Senate concerns about RRW being a new warhead design by insisting that the Bush Administration was "not trying to develop warheads for new or different military missions."

Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA) told D'Agostino, "My vote depends on whether I think this is a new warhead." She also referred to Senator Sam Nunn's (D-GA) testimony that RRW could be misunderstood by US allies and make it more difficult to deal with countries like Iran and North Korea.

Additionally, there are growing concerns that a new nuclear weapon would require the resumption of nuclear testing. Conducting a nuclear test would end a nuclear testing moratorium that dates back to 1992. It would also jeopardize the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which has been signed by over 180 countries, including the US (although CTBT has not been ratified in the Senate). At the hearing, D'Agostino could not certify that the RRW would not need to be tested.

The NNSA is requesting almost \$89 million in the FY '08 budget for the RRW program. This is more than three times the FY '07 budget of almost \$25 million.

North Korean Nuclear Deal Stalled

North Korea has delayed adhering to commitments made in a February denuclearization deal. The deal called for North Korea to shut down its Yongbyon nuclear reactor and allow international atomic inspectors back into the country by April 14th. North Korea refuses to comply with either action until frozen funds become available.

Six-party talks have only resumed in earnest since North Korea's October 2006 nuclear test. North Korea's nuclear policy has softened since the Bush administration's renewed push for six-party talks, though not without controversy. Recent diplomatic efforts are a drastic change in the White House's stance on North Korea, and compliance to the April 14th agreement may stand as a litmus test for future policy.

North Korean noncompliance has been linked to funds frozen in late 2005 by the United States, which accused North Korea of money laundering and spreading counterfeit dollars. Earlier in the month the United States began unfreezing \$25 million in North Korean funds based in Macao, but Pyongyang does not have access to the assets.

US President George Bush has shown guarded optimism in the diplomatic process. After a recent Camp David meeting, Bush said that nations involved in six-party talks are "patient, but our patience is not unlimited."

Sources: "N Korea Suggests Russian, Italian Banks Help to Return Funds," *Kazinform*, 1 May 2007. "N Korea Wants Normalised Banking to End BDA Row," *Agence France-Presse*, 24 April 2007.

Nuclear Insanity

Guards Strike at Nuclear Weapons Plant

On April 16th, 500 security guards at the Pantex nuclear weapons plant in Amarillo, Texas went on strike to protest steep deterioration in job and retirement security.

According to the protesters, the government changed fitness standards for weapons-plant guards in response to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Pantex Guards Union President Robert Lynch has said that guards face losing their jobs and health insurance if they do not meet the fitness standard required by the Department of Energy (DOE). Lynch argues that the guards work for the contractor, not DOE. Lynch says that the guards should be provided career paths that will allow older employees to have less physically demanding jobs.

This problem is not confined to the Pantex plant. Security guards at other nuclear production facilities have raised concerns about the new standards.

Members of Congress have chastised DOE for not acting to resolve the guards' concerns in time to avert a strike. "This employment instability not only raises the potential for significant costs to the American taxpayer, but also raises serious nuclear security concerns," said Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI), who chairs the oversight subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee. This strike is the latest in a long string of incidents involving poor management at US nuclear weapons facilities. This past January, National Nuclear Security Administration Director, Linton Brooks, had been fired over such problems.

The 16,000 acre Pantex Plant refurbishes and dismantles US nuclear weapons. DOE contracts out to BWXT who manages security at the Pantex site. Both DOE and BWXT have been preparing for this strike for several weeks.

Source: Russakoff, Dale, "Guards Go On Strike at Nuclear Weapons Plant," *Washington Post*, 17 April 2007.

American Association for the Advancement of Science Report Criticizes Warhead Program

The American Association for the Advancement of Science issued a report this past month, stating that US nuclear policy needed to be reexamined before going forward with the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program.

The report, which was written by a high-level panel that included former directors from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, was highly critical of the proposed RRW. The administration has argued that the RRW program would allow the US to cut the size of the nuclear stockpile while ensuring security and reducing cost. The report concluded that the cost savings might never occur with the RRW and those improvements in reliability and security would only be integrated into later RRW models. The report also said that building new nuclear weapons could start an international arms race.

Perhaps the biggest criticism in the report is that the Bush administration has not given a new strategy for how weapons would be used or rationale for maintaining a large nuclear weapons stockpile.

Since issuing a broad statement on policy in 2001, "there have been no presidential or Cabinet-level administration statements dealing with nuclear weapons," the report says. "In particular, there have been no policy statements that articulate the role of nuclear weapons in a post-Cold War and post-9/11 world and lay

out the stockpile needs for the future.”

Members of Congress and weapons experts have said that without a clear policy from the Bush administration, it would be difficult to gain public and congressional support for RRW. “Without an overall strategy for nuclear weapons, and whether or not they still have a place in the US arsenal, you are not going to be able to gain the necessary support,” said Phil Coyle, an Advancement of Science panel member and a former senior official at the Pentagon and at Livermore, who is now a senior adviser at the Center for Defense Information.

Source: Sterngold, James, “Nuclear Arms Report Puts Bush in Bind,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 25 April 2007.

Nuclear Labs

University Students Form Committee to Monitor Nuclear Labs

On April 25th, the University of California, Santa Barbara Associated Students Legislative Council unanimously approved a resolution to create a Student Nuclear Weapons Labs Oversight Committee.

Students frustrated by a lack of shared governance over the University of California’s management of the nation’s two nuclear design laboratories worked with student legislators to draft a resolution to establish a student oversight committee. The committee is charged with monitoring and investigating the work taking place at the Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos nuclear weapons compounds. The creation of the committee is historic; it gives students the authority to issue official reports, carry out weapons inspections of each facility, and lobby. Due to an overwhelmingly positive national response, committee members foresee cooperation with a number of high-profile advisors and specialists.

The Council had narrowly missed passing the bill at its April 18th meeting, making its unanimous approval the following week all the more impressive. Over 50 students, staff, and community supporters attended the second meeting, with many of them speaking at length and very passionately about the importance of the resolution. One of those who spoke was Hiroshima bomb survivor Shigeko Sasamori.

Media coverage of the resolution’s passage is available here: www.dailynexus.com/article.php?a=13918 and here: independent.com/news/2007/apr/28/hiroshima-survivor-lobbies-disarmament/.

Missile Defense

US Attempts to Mend Ties with Russia Over Planned European Missile Defense Site

A US plan to deploy a radar base in the Czech Republic and 10 missile interceptors in Poland has rekindled a Cold War-era dispute with Moscow. Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly objected to Washington’s plans, prompting the country to suspend Russian commitments to the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty.

Over 20 years ago, the US-Soviet disagreement over missile defense was one of the obstacles that prevented Reagan and Gorbachev from agreeing to complete bilateral disarmament of their nuclear arsenals. Russians see the act of installing missile defense in the eastern European country as a provocation, but US officials see it differently. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice remarked, “The idea that somehow 10 interceptors and a few radars in Eastern Europe are going to threaten the Soviet strategic deterrent is purely ludicrous, and everybody knows it.”

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has encouraged US President George Bush to increase communication with President Putin. In late April, Defense Secretary Robert Gates met with Putin in an effort to increase dialogue. "We have started a dialogue, as a result of Secretary Gates' visit, that hopefully will make explicit our intentions, and hopefully will present an opportunity to share with the Russians so that they don't see us as an antagonist force, but see us as a friendly force," Bush said.

Source: Butler, Desmond, "Bush to Discuss Missile Plan With Moscow," *Associated Press*, 30 April 2007.

Nuclear Energy and Waste

US-India Deal in Jeopardy

The US-India nuclear cooperation deal is in increasing jeopardy as India debates its right to conduct nuclear testing.

The controversial US-India nuclear cooperation deal was passed by Congress in December 2006. It stipulated that the US would supply India with nuclear technology in exchange for increased safeguards on some Indian nuclear facilities. The deal was severely criticized in the United States because of its potential damaging impact on global nonproliferation efforts.

The deal is also drawing great criticism in India over whether India is treated as a nuclear weapons state. This would give India the right to test its weapons and reprocess fuel. Under the so-called 123 agreement (named after the part of US non-proliferation law that needed to be altered in order for the deal to be legal) being negotiated, India would be prohibited from conducting nuclear tests and restricted in reprocessing nuclear fuel.

Although India has promised a moratorium on tests, many oppose forcing that kind of restriction. A *Times of India* editorial stated, "It would like, as an assertion of national sovereignty, to retain the theoretical right to conduct further tests."

In April, American and Indian negotiators met at the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group in South Africa. Both countries are currently at an impasse as Washington has stated that the US has already made concessions to Indian demands.

Bharat Karnad, a strategic analyst with the Center for Policy Research in New Delhi, a chief critic of the deal, maintained that India should not agree to any deal that kept it from acquiring nuclear weapons. "Our nonproliferation interests simply cannot be reconciled," he said of India and the United States. India, he added, seeks to "enjoy the privileges and prerogatives of a nuclear state." "Testing is the pivot on which the whole thing rests," Mr. Karnad argued. "It's the symbol of our strategic independence."

Similar to the United States, the failure of this deal would be a considerable diplomatic failure for India. Prime Minister Singh spent a great deal of political capital on selling the deal in India. Many progressive government officials and atomic scientists distrust American foreign policy and intentions.

"Were this deal to collapse now, after so much effort and hype, it would represent a substantial setback for the emerging partnership between the two countries," Robert Hathaway, director of the Asia Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, said in an e-mail message. "It would probably be many years before either side was willing to take political risks to rejuvenate the relationship."

Source: Sengupta, Somini, "India Debates Its Right to Nuclear Testing," *New York Times*, 21 April 2007.

Hawaii Residents Suspect Depleted Uranium in Ground

Hawaii residents are asking that the governor sign a bill that would test soil near army barracks for depleted uranium.

The legislation calls for the soil within 500 meters of the Schofield Barracks Army post to be tested quarterly, and the results forwarded to the Legislature each year.

“There’s been evidence already that the Army has been using depleted uranium in Hawaii,” said Cory Harden, a Mountain View resident who is backing Green’s bill. “There is also evidence that the depleted uranium causes birth defects and can get into the soil, water and air.”

In 2006, a company conducting clean up operations at Schofield Barracks on Oahu discovered depleted uranium that was used in the early 1960s.

Prior to that, the Army had denied any use in Hawaii of depleted uranium, which is used in armor-piercing projectiles because of its density and ability to burn spontaneously.

Following the discovery, the Army said it did not intentionally mislead the public when it said the substance was not used in Hawaii.

“They haven’t told us the truth in the past, so why should we believe them now?” said Harden, who added that the Army denied any usage of depleted uranium before it was discovered at Schofield Barracks.

Source: Command, Bobby, “Depleted Uranium Munitions Cause Concern Near Oahu Military Base,” *West Hawaii Today*, 26 April 2007.

Resources

Complex 2030: The Costs and Consequences of the Plan to Build a New Generation of Nuclear Weapons:

New Report by World Policy Institute

“Complex 2030: The Costs and Consequences of the Plan to Build a New Generation of Nuclear Weapons” focuses on the economic and budgetary costs of the Complex 2030 plan, the interests that stand to benefit from it, and the domestic political debate that is likely to determine the future of this initiative. This report was written by by William D. Hartung and Frida Berrigan.

Read more here: www.worldpolicy.org/projects/arms/reports/nuclearcosts.4.2.07.pdf.

Government Accounting Office Report on Nuclear Nonproliferation

“Nuclear Nonproliferation: Progress Made in Improving Security at Russian Nuclear Sites, but the Long-term Sustainability of US-Funded Security Upgrades is Uncertain.”

Safeguarding nuclear warheads and materials that can be used to make nuclear weapons is a primary national security concern of the United States. In 1995, DOE established the Materials Protection, Control, and Accounting (MPC&A) program to implement these efforts. GAO examined the (1) progress DOE has made in improving security at nuclear material sites in Russia and other countries, (2) progress DOE and DOD have made in improving security at Russian nuclear warhead sites, and (3) efforts DOE and DOD have

undertaken to ensure the continued effective use of US-funded security upgrades. To address these objectives, among other things, GAO analyzed agency documents, conducted interviews with key program officials, and visited four Russian nuclear sites.

Read more here: www.gao.gov/new.items/d07404.pdf.

New Report from American Association for the Advancement of Science:

The Role of the Reliable Replacement Warhead

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), through its Nuclear Weapons Complex Assessment Committee, chartered a study in May 2006 to examine the possible role the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) might play in the future of the United States nuclear weapons program. The study was motivated by concerns expressed by the DOE/NNSA and the nuclear weapons Laboratories that the current Stockpile Stewardship Program (SSP) might be inadequate to maintain the nuclear stockpile in the long-term, and that the RRW approach could be the best way to resolve those concerns.

Read more here: <http://cstsp.aaas.org/content.html?contentid=899>.

Foundation Activities

Non-Proliferation Treaty PrepCom to Meet in Vienna

The Preparatory Committee for the review of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) will be meeting in Vienna, Austria. Foundation President David Krieger; Washington, DC Director Nickolas Roth; and New York Representative Alice Slater will represent the NAPF at the meeting. This meeting, which will be held at the beginning of May, will consider statements, working papers, and reports in preparation for the 2010 NPT Review Conference. NGOs like the NAPF play an important role in bringing the perspectives of civil society to this intergovernmental meeting.

The Human Cost of War

The Foundation, with Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Santa Barbara, is sponsoring "The Human Costs of War," an evening of discussion and action. The event will begin with clips from a documentary, *The Ground Truth*, which highlights soldiers' experience in Iraq. There will be a short address by the Foundation's Research and Advocacy Associate, Andrew Culp, entitled "Bringing the War Home: Local Ways to Stop War Before it Starts." The evening will conclude with breakout groups that will begin planning events to stop war.

This free event will be held May 8th at the Faulkner Gallery at the Santa Barbara Public Library, 7:00-9:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Andrew at (805) 965-3443.

World Future Council to Hold Inaugural Meeting

Foundation President and World Future Council (WFC) member, David Krieger, will attend the WFC inaugural meeting in Hamburg's Town Hall in May 2007. The WFC's vision is for a global council made up

of wise elders, thinkers, pioneers, and young leaders. It was born out of a frustration with global politics and its apparent inability to take the necessary steps to secure our common future. The meeting will be the public launch of the WFC's first campaign, with the mission to clearly define climate stabilization as a fundamental necessity and human responsibility for a more just, peaceful and sustainable world for future generations.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org/>.

Empire and the Bomb - How the US Uses Nuclear Weapons to Dominate the World

Monday, May 21st in Los Angeles, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is co-sponsoring a discussion with Dr. Joseph Gerson. Gerson, Peace and Economic Security Program Director at American Friends Service Committee New England, will discuss his new book *Empire and the Bomb: How the United States Uses Nuclear Weapons to Dominate the World*.

Gerson will explain why atomic weapons were first built and used – and how the US uses them today to preserve its global empire. Gerson reveals more than 20 threats of nuclear attack during the Cold War – against Russia, China, Vietnam, and the Middle East. He shows how such threats continued under Presidents Bush, Clinton, and George W. Bush.

The event will be held May 21st from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at American Friends Service Committee, 634 S. Spring St., Ground Floor Conference Room, Los Angeles, CA.

For more information, visit: www.afsc.org/calendar/event.php?calendar=19&category=0&event=7243&full=true&date=2007-05-21

No Nukes! No Wars! A Concert for Peace

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Youth Empowerment Initiative is excited to present its first-ever concert fundraiser, No Nukes! No Wars! A Concert for Peace, on Friday, May 25, 2007 at the Earl Warren Showgrounds in Santa Barbara, CA. The theme "No Nukes! No Wars!" reminds us that, in the Nuclear Age, all wars are fought in the shadow of potential nuclear holocaust. As a generation, today's youth must rise up to demand a world free from the threat of war and free of weapons of mass destruction!

Performers include Radioactive from Spearhead, Quinto Sol, Aztlan Underground, and Pussywillow Sparks. Doors will open at 6:30, tickets will be \$15 at the door and there will be a \$3 fee for parking.

For more information, visit: www.wagingpeace.org/youth.

Quotes

"I suspect our potential adversaries know the number of US nuclear warheads with much better precision than do the members of Congress."

- - US Representative **David Hobson**, noting that the size of the US nuclear arsenal remains classified.

“We’re expanding our nukes. Who the hell are we going to nuke? Tell me Barack. Who...you wanna nuke?”

- - Democratic Presidential candidate **Mike Gravel**, posing a challenge to fellow Presidential hopeful Senator Barack Obama during a debate.

“We seem to be in a rut where setbacks in the field of disarmament have become the norm, not an exception. This situation is unacceptable.”

- - UN Secretary General **Ban Ki-moon**

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