

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

Judge Christopher Weeramantry Receives NAPF Lifetime Achievement Award

by David Krieger

As a judge on the International Court of Justice, Judge Weeramantry wrote a lengthy dissent to the Court's Advisory Opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons. The Court found that the threat or use of nuclear

weapons would be generally illegal, but held open the possibility of legality in an extreme circumstance in which the very survival of a state was at stake. In his dissent, Judge Weeramantry concluded that there was no instance in which the threat or use of nuclear weapons could be considered legal under international law. Judge Weeramantry's dissent in this case remains the most comprehensive and important legal opinion written on this critical issue.

In his acceptance speech upon receiving the Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award, Judge Weeramantry spoke on "Peace, International Law and the Rights of Future Generations." He pointed out that the 20th century had begun with high hopes for peace on the heels of the 1899 Hague Peace Conference. The Conference, convened by Czar Nicholas of Russia, sought to avert the resort to war in the 20th century. But, the judge pointed out, as we all know, the 20th century was witness to two devastating world wars. Judge Weeramantry described the 20th century as the century of *lost* opportunity. He characterized the 21st century as the century of *last* opportunity.

To read more, visit: http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/04/17_krieger_weeramantry_award.php.

The World Tipping Points

by Bianca Jagger

We are at an unprecedented moment in human history. We stand on the precipice of not one or two global crises, but many.

The world stands at the tipping point of human security, nuclear disaster as well as climate chaos. We are living at a dangerous period in world politics. We are witnessing unprecedented assaults on *the rule of law, human rights and civil liberties*, and our politicians are no longer being held accountable for their deceptions and failures.

What happens next will be determined by our actions. These issues have a pressing urgency, an urgency that demands radical and complete reform of the way we see the world and the way we live our lives.

To read more, visit: http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/04/15_jagger_tipping_points.php.

Opening Remarks for the Washington, DC Think Outside the Bomb Conference

by Nickolas Roth

I'd like to talk for a moment about what this conference is and why now more than ever there is a need for a new generation of peace leaders.

I am an American born after 1978. According to pop culture and statistical studies, we are known as Millennials or Generation Y. We are considered socially progressive and politically active. However, my generation does not consider global nuclear disarmament a priority. I believe the reason for this is that we are the first generation to come of age in a post-Cold War society. We are the first post-Cold War Americans.

To read more, visit: http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/05/06_roth_totb_intro.php.

Historical Perspectives

What It Means To Think Outside the Bomb

Last month, [C-SPAN television](#) broadcast portions of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's second annual Washington, DC Think Outside the Bomb youth conference. Around the world, people were introduced to the successful and inspiring Think Outside the Bomb program in which young people had the opportunity to engage in a conversation with historians, policy experts, and experienced activists on how best to make progress toward nuclear disarmament, environmental clean-up and grassroots citizen mobilization.

The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Zia Mian, Princeton physicist and director of the Project on Peace and Security in South Asia. Dr. Mian discussed what it meant to truly “Think Outside the Bomb.” He argued that it was hard for young people to conceive of a world without nuclear weapons because society has been built on the existence of nuclear weapons. He said that the idea of nuclear weapons were a “generational mindset” among youth. For instance, some Pakistani books that teach children how to read associate the letter “A” with atomic bomb and a mushroom cloud.

Dr. Mian also argued that the “logic of the bomb” predated the invention of nuclear weapons. Strategic bombing during World War II destroyed whole cities. This created the precedent for using technology to generate mass destruction of cities and killing of civilians. He stated that, in order to “Think Outside the Bomb,” people needed to address the societal factors that led to the creation of nuclear weapons.

To learn more about Think Outside the Bomb, visit: www.thinkoutsidethebomb.org.

Nuclear Proliferation

American Scientists Call for Drastic Change in US Nuclear Weapons Policy

The Union of Concerned Scientists has outlined the need for the United States to take into account post-Cold War realities and to create a more pro-active nuclear strategy. With such a strategy, the scientists believe that the US will be able to “shape its nuclear future, rather than anticipate the worst and hedge against it.”

The statement argues that the United States’ current policy of keeping thousands of strategic warheads on alert serves only to perpetuate the only threat that could obliterate American society. Instead of perceiving Iran, North Korea, or Al-Qaeda as the forefront of US security threats, the scientists explain that “a large-scale attack by Russia launched either without authorization, by accident, or by mistake because of a false warning of an incoming US attack,” is a much more serious threat.

They also argue that when the US continues to assign large roles to nuclear weapons in defense strategy and lays out plans for upgrading its arsenal, it works to increase the “incentive for other nations to acquire nuclear weapons, and [reduces] the political costs to them of doing so.”

The scientists express their view that the US consistently contributes to a “climate in which possessing nuclear weapons is legitimate,” and seems to ignore the fact that political and technical obstacles blockading non-nuclear weapons states from acquiring weapons are quickly crumbling.

The statement urges the US to take the lead in “promoting an effort to clear the path to a world free of nuclear weapons.” It also offers a detailed plan with practical steps for doing so. These steps include: “declaring a no first-use policy; rejecting and replacing current ‘hair-trigger’ rapid-launch options; ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; reducing the US nuclear arsenal to 1,000 warheads, including deployed and reserve warheads; committing the United States to reducing its number of nuclear weapons below 1,000 on a negotiated and verified bilateral or multilateral basis; and reaffirming the US commitment to pursue nuclear disarmament as required under Article VI of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.”

If the US were to follow these steps, the scientists argue that the risks of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism would be drastically reduced, and the world would be able to pursue a rational discussion of nuclear disarmament.

Ninety-one of the scientists belong to National Academy of Sciences; 23 are the recipients of the Nobel Prize; and 10 have received the National Medal of Science.

To read the statement, visit: www.ucsusa.org/global_security/nuclear_weapons/nuclearstatement.html.

Israeli PM Says Syria Poses No Nuclear Threat

On April 17, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert announced that his country faces no nuclear threat from Syria. His statement drew confusion in light of the air strike Israel conducted against Syrian facilities six months earlier.

While Israel has not released details about the target it struck in September 2007, many US officials suspect that the air strike resulted from a belief that Syria was harboring nuclear weapons supplies for North Korea. This would allow the North Koreans to continue to receive US financial support and work under the auspices that they had shut down the North Korean nuclear weapons program.

Damascus and Pyongyang have denied these claims, but Bush administration officials have accused states like North Korea and Iran of attempting to outsource their goals to manufacture nuclear weapons. Regardless, Israel, a nation that most believe possesses nuclear arms, making it the only nuclear weapons state in the Middle East, now says that Syria poses no nuclear threat.

Avida Landau, "Olmert Says Israel Not Under Syrian Nuclear Threat," *Reuters*, April 17, 2008.

Nuclear Insanity

Israel, US Sign Nuclear Safety Research Agreement

Arms control experts are concerned about the Israel Atomic Energy Commission (IAEC) and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) new agreement to give Israel new measures of access to US research in nuclear safety.

This sharing of information will allow Israeli scientists to take courses offered in the United States and to compare and learn about new technologies. Previously, the IAEC had only a limited access to the NRC's information available in the public domain. With the new agreement, "Israel will be able to see 93 percent of the NRC's research in nuclear safety," said Nili Lifshitz, an IAEC spokeswoman. The NRC explained its new agreement by saying that the commission "shares safety-related information as broadly as possible," and that the agreement is based on State Department guidance. Experts believe that the US' continued support of Israel in its nuclear efforts will only serve to embolden other nations in the region in their quests for a nuclear deterrent.

Despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, Israel will not confirm the existence of its nuclear weapons arsenal. They also resist international pressure to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Ari Rabinovitch, "Israel, US to Share Nuclear Safety Research," *New York Times*, April 14, 2008.

Nuclear Energy and Waste

Senators Oppose US Nuclear Reprocessing Plan, Cite Proliferation Concerns

In a letter sent on April 24th to Chairman Byron Dorgan and Ranking Member Pete Domenici of the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, nine US Senators state: "We write in opposition to Department of Energy's (DOE) fiscal year 2009 request for over \$300 million to reprocess commercial nuclear spent fuel."

The letter highlights key concerns related to reprocessing, including past failures, exorbitant costs, environmental contamination, and the proliferation of weapons-usable nuclear material and technology.

Despite failing to respond to Congressional demands for more information about life cycle costs, proliferation implications,

and waste streams, the Bush administration is requesting more than \$300 million for reprocessing in 2009. Last year, Congress reduced the administration's request of \$405 million to \$179 million.

The senators who signed were **Russ Feingold** (D-WI), **Ron Wyden** (D-OR), **John Kerry** (D-MA), **Charles Schumer** (D-NY), **Daniel Akaka** (D-HI), **Bernard Sanders** (I-VT), **Tom Harkin** (D-IA), **Edward Kennedy** (D-MA) and **Sherrod Brown** (D-OH).

Poor Management of Spanish Radioactive Leak

Over 800 people were checked for radiation contamination after a nuclear power plant in Tarragona, Spain suffered a radioactive leak last November. While the Nuclear Safety Council (CSN) has yet to find a case of contamination, they have found several instances of misreporting that followed the incident.

The leak, which occurred during the refueling of the 1,000 megawatt reactor in November 2007, was not reported to the CSN until April 4, 2008. On April 8, the plant's management announced that 235,000 Bequerels (Bq) of radioactivity had been leaked, but have corrected their original low calculations by admitting that 84,950,000 Bq were leaked during the incident. The CSN has given the incident a number 2 rating on the International Nuclear Event Scale (which ranges from a number 1 rating for an "anomaly" to a number 7 rating, which is considered a "major accident"), citing inadequate control of nuclear materials and inaccurate and deficient reporting to regulators as grounds for the rating.

Martin Roberts, "Up to 800 People Checked After Spain Radioactive Leak," *Reuters*, April 15, 2008.

Resources

Carbon Free and Nuclear Free

As new scientific studies conclude that slowing global warming will require an end to carbon emissions within a few decades, a recently-published book offers the only detailed plan for how the US can end reliance on fossil fuels without sacrificing economic growth and without the risks of nuclear power.

Carbon Free and Nuclear Free: A Roadmap for U.S. Energy Policy is the first to show how a reliable, cost-effective system can be based on sources that do not emit carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses without recourse to nuclear power plants.

Dr. Arjun Makhijani, president of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, is the book's author.

The entire text can be downloaded from: www.ieer.org/carbonfree/CarbonFreeNuclearFree.pdf.

Foundation Activities

Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest Accepting Entries

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's **Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest** is now accepting entries.

The contest seeks brief 2-3 minute videos on why US leadership is necessary to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. **Cash prizes of \$1,000, \$750 and \$250** are available to the top three entrants.

For more information on the contest, please visit our website: www.wagingpeace.org/menu/programs/awards-&-contests/video-contest/2008/index.html.

Hurry, the deadline for entries is June 16, 2008!

David Krieger to Speak in Los Angeles

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation President David Krieger will speak at the Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 12. He will be part of a panel examining the question, "Coexistence or Co-Annihilation? – The Case against Nuclear Weapons." The other panelists are Rev. George Regas and Jane Olson.

The forum is hosted by Interfaith Communities for Justice and Peace. The Immanuel Presbyterian Church is located at 3300 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles.

Appeal to the Next President Gains Strong Support

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Appeal to the Next President, calling for US leadership for a nuclear weapons-free world, has gained the support of thousands of individuals and groups around the world.

If you have not yet signed the Appeal, please take a few seconds to do so today at www.wagingpeace.org/appeal.

If you have already signed on, please let your friends, family and co-workers know about this important opportunity to help make the world a safer place.

The latest groups to sign on to the Appeal include France's Mouvement de la Paix and the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), winners of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize.

Quotes

"The United States and some other nuclear weapons states are dangerously persisting on yesterday's doctrines and the traditional role of nuclear deterrence. They have kept the fate of civilization and of humanity itself under horror and panic. By insisting on keeping nuclear bombs, nuclear weapons states themselves are the source of proliferation."

-- **H.E. Mr. Ali Reza Moaiyeri**, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking at the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee in Geneva, Switzerland.

"We believe that the possible development of new types of nuclear weapons and new targeting options to serve aggressive counter-proliferation purposes, as well as the lack of progress in diminishing the role of nuclear weapons in security policies, further undermine the disarmament commitments."

-- **H.E. Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja**, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, speaking on behalf of the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty of the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

"Nuclear weapon-free zones remain an important demonstration of the international community's resolve to eliminate nuclear weapons from our world. The New Agenda Coalition welcomes the ratifications from Rwanda and Gabon in 2007 and Mozambique in 2008, of the Treaty of Pelindaba, and believes these steps will create additional momentum towards that Treaty's entry into force."

-- **H.E. Don MacKay**, Ambassador of New Zealand, speaking at the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition.

“In the next 10 years, during which they [Iran] might foolishly consider launching an attack on Israel, we would be able to totally obliterate them.”

-- **Sen. Hillary Clinton** (D-NY), speaking on ABC's “Good Morning America” on April 29, 2008.

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