

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

A 100-Day Agenda for Nuclear Disarmament: President Obama Scores High

by David Krieger

At the end of 2008, following President Obama's election but prior to his inauguration, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation put forward "[A Nuclear Disarmament Agenda for President Obama](#)," focusing on his first 100 days in office. During his campaign for the presidency, candidate Obama had spoken about a nuclear weapons-free world being in the interests of America and the world. The Foundation put forward the 100-Day Agenda to encourage President Obama to keep the issue of nuclear disarmament high on his agenda. The Foundation urged the president to act boldly and take a number of steps during his first hundred days in office. The steps that were proposed were divided into three categories: public commitment, bilateral engagement and global action.

President Obama has, in fact, acted quickly and boldly on a nuclear disarmament agenda. He assumed office on January 20, 2009 and almost immediately posted on the www.whitehouse.gov website a series of steps that he and Vice President Biden intended to take on nuclear policy issues.

To read more, visit: http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/04/16_krieger_100_day.php.

Speech on Nuclear Issues Delivered in Prague

by President Barack Obama

One of those issues that I will focus on today is fundamental to our nations, and to the peace and security of the world — the future of nuclear weapons in the 21st century.

The existence of thousands of nuclear weapons is the most dangerous legacy of the Cold War. No nuclear war was fought between the United States and the Soviet Union, but generations lived with the knowledge that their world could be erased in a single flash of light. Cities like Prague that had existed for centuries would have ceased to exist.

To read more, visit: http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/04/05_obama_prague_speech.php.

Obama's Nuclear Challenge

by Jonathan Schell

"So today, I state clearly and with conviction America's commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons," President Obama said at the open-air rally in Prague on April 5. With these words came a change in the global air, as if a window had been opened a crack in a dark room that had been sealed shut for decades. On only two previous occasions had an American president proposed the abolition of nuclear arms. The first was Truman's proposal at the United Nations in 1946 to place all nuclear technology under international control and devote it entirely to peaceful purposes, and so to strangle the nuclear age in its cradle. Stalin's Soviet Union, bent on developing the bomb, would not agree.

To read more, visit: http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/04/15_schell_obama_challenge.php.

Nuclear Disarmament

German Foreign Minister Calls for Removal of US Nuclear Weapons

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier has recently called for the removal of all American nuclear weapons from Germany. Hosting American nuclear weapons in Germany is a part of “nuclear-sharing,” in which a non-nuclear state can host third-party nuclear weapons in order to have a say in NATO and have an “influence in the defense alliance.” Currently, opponents of nuclear sharing have the majority in the Bundestag, and the far-left Left Party, the Green Party and the Social Democrats also want nuclear weapons out of their country.

“Foreign Minister Wants US Nukes Out of Germany,” *Spiegel Online International*, April 10, 2009.

European Parliament Recommends Complete Nuclear Disarmament by 2020

The European Parliament approved with a majority of 177 votes against 130 an amendment introducing the “Model Nuclear Weapons Convention” and the “Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol” as concrete tools to achieve a nuclear weapons-free world by 2020.

The amendment introducing the “Model Nuclear Weapons Convention” and the “Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol” was actively promoted by Mayors for Peace, a global network of 2,817 cities from 134 countries and regions, presided by Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba, the Mayor of Hiroshima.

D’Huyvetter, Pol, “European Parliament Recommends Complete Nuclear Disarmament by 2020,” *Active Nonviolence*, April 24, 2009.

World Physicians Issue Nuclear Weapons Appeal

Physicians from around the world recently submitted a letter to US President Obama and Russian President Medvedev, calling on the two leaders to “end the nuclear weapons era once and for all.”

The group was organized by the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, winner of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize. To read the entire letter, visit <http://www.ippnw.org/News/MedicalAppeal.htm>.

Nuclear Proliferation

North Korea Launches Rocket, Re-Starts Nuclear Program

North Korea announced that it has re-started the production of weapons-grade plutonium through the reprocessing of spent nuclear reactor fuel rods. This act, which illustrates the inextricable link between nuclear energy and nuclear weapons, threatens to put an end to the six-party talks aimed at achieving North Korean nuclear disarmament.

Earlier in April, North Korea launched a long-range rocket, which it claimed was sending a satellite into space. Other countries, including the United States, suspected that the launch was meant to test North Korea’s long-range missile capabilities.

“North Korea Resumes Nuclear Operations,” *Global Security Newswire*, April 27, 2009.

Nuclear Energy and Waste

Nuclear Waste and Somali Pirates

When the Somali government collapsed in 1991, no one took over, leaving the country without a government and making it easy for other countries to take advantage of its resources. According to Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, the UN envoy to Somalia, European ships started appearing off the coast of Somalia soon after its government disappeared. They dumped nuclear material, lead, and heavy metals such as cadmium and mercury, which has been traced back to European hospitals and factories. They are allegedly passing it to the mafia or other organizations to dispose of, since it is cheaper than doing so in their own countries.

The coastal population in Somalia has seen strange rashes, nausea and malformed babies. In addition, the tsunami that hit in 2005 caused hundreds of the dumped and leaking barrels to hit the shore, causing around 300 deaths due to radiation. Many Somali pirates do not consider themselves pirates; they call themselves the Volunteer Coastguard of Somalia, and much of the population agrees with them. They are actually fishermen who have been adversely affected by nuclear waste dumping and unauthorized over-fishing of Somali waters.

Johann Hari, a columnist for *The Independent* of London, says, "You are being lied to about pirates - some are clearly just gangsters. But others are trying to stop illegal dumping or trawling."

Hari, Johann, "You Are Being Lied To About Pirates," *The Independent*, January 5, 2009.

Military-Industrial Complex

Pentagon May Scrap Long-Range Bomber Plans

The Pentagon has recently made the decision to delay a program meant to develop a long-range bomber until the US finishes negotiations with Russia regarding the renewal of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. The Air Force hoped to field the bomber in 2018, while phasing out older ones, and planned to spend at least \$1.6 billion on the program. The new bomber was an outgrowth of the Defense Department's 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review, and Defense Secretary Robert Gates stated that he also wants a more thorough explanation for the need of the new bomber before moving forward with plans.

"Commander Agrees With Decision to Delay New Bomber," *Global Security Newswire*, April 22, 2009.

War and Peace

NATO 60th Anniversary Meets Resistance in Strasbourg

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), formed at the beginning of the Cold War to counter the Soviet Union, met in Strasbourg, France for its 60th anniversary celebration.

Thousands of protestors braved a fierce police response to call for the disbanding of NATO. Police used tear gas and roadblocks to break up protests, most of which were peaceful.

Through NATO, the US keeps hundreds of nuclear weapons on military bases in European countries.

"Police, Protestors Clash at NATO Summit," *United Press International*, April 6, 2009.

Resources

A Guide to US Missile Defense

BBC News has created an interactive guide to how the US missile defense system is supposed to work. However, this guide does not address major concerns about the ability of a missile defense system to perform as conceived.

To view this guide, visit: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/5106762.stm>.

From Counterforce to Minimal Deterrence

A new report by the Federation of American Scientists and the Natural Resources Defense Council, *From Counterforce to Minimal Deterrence: A New Nuclear Policy on the Path Toward Eliminating Nuclear Weapons*, recommends replacing the old counterforce doctrine with a new targeting policy called Minimal Deterrence. The report also calls for fundamental changes to US nuclear war planning and policy.

To see a copy of this report, visit <http://lists.fas.org/listman/link.php?M=82697&N=202&L=332&F=H>.

Transforming the Nuclear Weapons Complex

The Nuclear Weapons Complex Consolidation Policy Network has released a new report called *Transforming the US Strategic Posture and Weapons Complex for Transition to a Nuclear Weapons-Free World*.

The report outlines in great detail a plan to shrink the existing US nuclear weapons complex from eight sites to three. The report is the result of a two-year collaboration among six citizens' groups based near many of the nuclear weapons complex sites.

To download a copy of the report visit:

<http://www.trivalleycares.org/new/reports/NWeapPosture=ComplexFNL.pdf>.

Summer Intensive Course in Hiroshima

Hiroshima City University in Hiroshima, Japan is hosting an intensive summer course from July 28-August 7 called "Hiroshima and Peace." The course will provide students with a general understanding of war and peace by looking at past wartime experiences, such as the atomic bombing in Hiroshima, while also examining current issues of world peace. Undergraduates and graduates are invited to apply by May 1. The tuition for undergraduates is 20,000 yen (about \$200) and 21,000 yen for graduates. Three credits will be offered upon completion, and there will be free accommodations for non-Japanese students. For more information, go to www.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp/Hiroshima-and-Peace/index.htm or email Hiroshima-and-Peace@office.hiroshima-cu.ac.jp.

Foundation Activities

Foundation Sponsors Panel at NPT PrepCom

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is sponsoring a panel discussion at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee meeting at the United Nations in New York.

Speakers will discuss new signs of hope for nuclear abolition in their country or region.

The panel will take place on Wednesday, May 6 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm in Conference Room E of the United Nations. Speakers include:

- Tadatoshi Akiba, President, Mayors for Peace
- David Krieger, President, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
- Randy Rydell, United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs
- Dave Webb, Vice-Chair, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
- Tilman Ruff, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
- Reiner Braun, International Network of Engineers and Scientists

Poetry and Video Contests End Soon

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation sponsors two contests with cash prizes.

The **Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Awards** encourage poets to explore and illuminate positive visions of peace and the human spirit. The deadline for entries is July 1, 2009. For more information on the poetry contest, visit <http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/programs/awards-&-contests/bmk-contest/index.htm>.

The **Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest** seeks videos less than three minutes in length addressing the topic “**Breakthrough: Putting the Nuclear Genie Back in the Bottle.**” The deadline for entries is June 15, 2009. For more information on the contest, visit <http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/programs/awards-&-contests/video-contest/2009/index.htm>.

Quotes

“The Middle East should be a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. We are going through times where hopes for multilateral diplomacy to weigh in once again are on the rise. That is why I take the new US administration’s statements on disarmament and the joint statement by presidents Obama and Medvedev early this month very seriously.”

-- Turkish President **Abdullah Gul**

“We are sure that this treaty could promote confidence, predictability in the world. And I hope that it will be a very impressive impulse to international movement regarding getting rid (of the world’s) nuclear weapon (s).”

-- **Anatoly Antonov**, Russian Foreign Ministry security and disarmament chief, speaking after the first day of US-Russian negotiations on a replacement for the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

“We may not need any [new nuclear or coal power plants], ever.”

-- **Jay Wellinghoff**, Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, speaking at a US Energy Association forum on April 22, 2009.

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