

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

NAPF at the 2010 NPT Review Conference

by Rick Wayman

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is involved in a number of activities in New York City for the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference. The Foundation co-organized an international conference on peace and disarmament on April 30 and May 1 with over 1,000 participants from 25 countries. On May 1, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon delivered the keynote address at the conference (see *Perspectives*, below).

On May 3, the Foundation hosted a panel discussion inside the United Nations entitled *From Omnicide to Abolition: Shifting the Mindset*. The room was filled to capacity with country delegates and NGO representatives eager to hear the panels perspectives on how humanity must change its modes of thinking to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons.

To see photos and read a full account of the Foundation's activities at the 2010 NPT Review Conference written by the Foundation's Director of Programs, Rick Wayman, [click here](#).

Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament: Shifting the Mindset

by David Krieger

The following article is the executive summary of the briefing booklet the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation prepared for and is distributing at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Throughout the Nuclear Age, leaders of the United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France and China – the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, known as the P5 – have been locked in old ways of thinking about security. They believe that nuclear deterrence in a two-tier structure of nuclear haves and have-nots can hold indefinitely without significant nuclear proliferation and further use of nuclear weapons. This way of thinking continues to place not only the P5 and their allies in danger of nuclear annihilation, but threatens global catastrophe for civilization, the human species and most forms of life.

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

Speech to the International Conference on Peace and Disarmament

by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Reading the list of organizations and individuals with us this evening, I want to say what an honor it is to be here. I know of your hard work and dedication. I know how much you have sacrificed in standing for your principles and beliefs. I know how much courage it takes to speak out, to protest, to carry the banner of this most noble human aspiration: world peace. And so, most of all, I am here tonight to thank you.

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

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

2010 US Nuclear Posture Review

In both tone and substance the new Nuclear Posture Review is far more positive and hopeful than that of the George W. Bush administration. The Obama nuclear posture puts its primary focus on preventing nuclear proliferation and terrorism. “The threat of global nuclear war has become remote,” it says, “but the risk of nuclear attack has increased.” It views nuclear terrorism as “today’s most immediate and extreme danger.”

Many advocates of a nuclear weapon-free world, including the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, encouraged the Obama administration to go further and adopt a policy of No First Use; that is, committing to use nuclear weapons only in response to a preceding nuclear attack. While the administration did not demonstrate this level of leadership, it did consider a policy of making the deterrence of a nuclear attack the “sole purpose” of nuclear weapons. However, it dismissed even this step, while offering some hope that it will work toward this end in the future.

Krieger, David, “[The New US Nuclear Posture](#),” www.wagingpeace.org, April 7, 2010.

US Resists Pressure to Remove Nuclear Weapons from Europe

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton ruled out removing an estimated 200 nuclear weapons on air bases in five NATO countries unless Russia agrees to cuts in its arsenal. She also appeared to make reductions in the American stockpile contingent on Russia’s being more transparent about its weapons and willing to move them away from the borders of NATO countries.

The push to withdraw tactical nuclear weapons from Europe has gained momentum in recent weeks, with Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Norway jointly petitioning NATO to take up the issue.

“[US Ties Removal of European Nukes to Russian Arms Cuts](#),” *Global Security Newswire*, April 23, 2010.

Nuclear Disarmament

US and Russia Reach a New Nuclear Arms Reduction Agreement

The US and Russia have reached an agreement on a replacement for the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) that expired in December 2009. The new agreement was signed by Presidents Obama and Medvedev in Prague on April 8. The new agreement will cut deployed strategic nuclear weapons to 1,550 on each side. However, special counting rules will allow a nuclear bomber aircraft, which can carry up to 20 nuclear weapons, to be counted as one nuclear warhead.

The new treaty must still be ratified by the US Senate and Russian Duma before entering into force. The full text of the new agreement can be downloaded from the Foundation's [Nuclear Files](#) website.

To send a letter to your Senators asking them to support ratification of the New START agreement, [click here](#).

Arab Appeal for Nuclear Disarmament

Leaders of 22 Arab countries have launched a pressing call to free the world from nuclear weapons. At a two-day summit in Sirt, Libya, leaders “reaffirmed that all Arab countries that are signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) demand the international community to undertake immediate actions to free the world from nuclear weapons.”

Arab leaders demanded that the 2010 NPT review conference “adopt clear decisions and build up practical measures to make the Middle East a nuclear-free region.” Arab support for the nuclear weapon-free Middle East initiative has gathered added strength particularly in the Gulf Arab countries in the wake of the US, Israel and Europe alleging that Iran intends to build nuclear weapons.

However, the states also call for a significantly increased role for nuclear energy in the region, failing to recognize the inextricable link between nuclear energy and nuclear weapons.

Mahdy, Fareed, “[Dramatic Arab Appeal for a Nuclear-Free World](#),” *IDN*, April 4, 2010.

Nuclear Proliferation

Israel Has World's Sixth-Largest Nuclear Arsenal

Defense analysts have said that Israel's arsenal of 100 to 300 nuclear warheads is the sixth largest among

nuclear-armed states. Jane's Information Group stated that Israeli nuclear weapons can be launched from air, land and sea.

Israel continues to refuse to formally admit its possession of a nuclear arsenal.

“[Israel Owns Sixth-Largest Nuke Arsenal, Defense Analysts Say](#),” *Global Security Newswire*, April 13, 2010.

Nuclear Security Summit Seeks to Secure Fissile Materials Worldwide

On April 12 and 13, President Obama hosted a Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, DC, which brought together the heads of state of 47 nations to discuss issues relating to nuclear terrorism and the security of fissile materials.

World leaders gathered at the two-day conference vowed an unprecedented effort to crack down on nuclear smuggling, step up the sharing of nuclear information, and help develop common standards and procedures for the physical security of fissile materials.

Richter, Paul, “[Summit Endorses Obama Goal on Nuclear Security](#),” *Los Angeles Times*, April 13, 2010.

Nuclear Insanity

Supreme Court Won't Hear Marshall Islands Case

The United States settled a claim over 25 years ago relating to damage from the 67 nuclear weapons tests it conducted in the South Pacific. Marshall Islanders claim that the US government owes them compensation under the Constitution's Fifth Amendment for taking their land and the surrounding sea for nuclear weapons testing.

The United States promised the people of Enewetak \$385 million and the people of Bikini \$563 million for the loss of their land. To date, less than one percent of that amount has been paid. When a lawsuit was filed by former islanders, the US Court of Appeals ruled that “No court of the United States shall have jurisdiction to entertain such claims, and any such claims pending in the courts of the United States shall be dismissed.”

Richey, Warren, “[Supreme Court: No Review of Award for US Nuclear Weapons Tests](#),” *Christian Science Monitor*, April 5, 2010.

US Test-Fires Nuclear Missile in Drill with Saudis

An American defense official has confirmed that the United States launched a nuclear-capable Trident

missile in a joint drill with Saudi Arabia in late March.

Earlier that month, US Defense Secretary Robert Gates visited the Saudi Arabia to discuss imposing further sanctions against Iran for its alleged nuclear weapons program.

Nasrawi, Salah, "[US Test-Fires Trident Missile in Drill with Saudis](#)," *Associated Press*, March 31, 2010.

Missile Defense

New START Agreement Does Not Prohibit US Missile Defense

Some Republican Senators have raised objections to the New START agreement between the US and Russia because they say it will constrain US missile defense plans. However, a closer examination of the treaty shows that US missile defense plans will be able to go ahead.

Specifically, many of the silos that have already been converted for use in missile defense by the US have been exempted from restrictions in the new agreement. Other missile defense facilities in Alaska will proceed as planned. In addition, missile defense ventures with Eastern Europe, Japan and Israel will not be affected by the new agreement.

Pincus, Walter, "[Arms Control Treaty Shouldn't Constrain US Missile Defenses](#)," *Washington Post*, April 20, 2010.

Military-Industrial Complex

Prompt Global Strike May Replace Some US Nuclear Weapons

The Obama administration has asked Congress for \$520 million to continue developing a new weapons system called Prompt Global Strike. The new weapon is designed to carry out tasks like taking out a North Korean missile while it is being rolled to the launch pad or destroying an Iranian nuclear site - all without crossing the nuclear threshold. In theory, the weapon will hurl a conventional warhead of enormous weight at high speed and with pinpoint accuracy, generating the localized destructive power of a nuclear warhead.

A similar weapons system was promoted by George W. Bush. In face-to-face meetings with President Bush, Russian leaders complained that the technology could increase the risk of a nuclear war, because Russia would not know if the missiles carried nuclear warheads or conventional ones. Mr. Bush and his aides concluded that the Russians were right.

Sanger, David and Thom Shanker, "[US Faces Choice on New Weapons for Fast Strikes](#)," *The New York Times*, April 22, 2010.

Resources

Photo Essay from Chernobyl

An avid motorcyclist from Ukraine has compiled an in-depth photo collection from her travels around the abandoned towns near Chernobyl, a nuclear power plant that experienced a massive meltdown on April 26, 1986, spewing radioactive fallout around the world.

To view the photos, [click here](#).

Security Without Nuclear Deterrence: A New Book by Commander Robert Green

Commander Robert Green, a retired member of the British Navy who had responsibilities for nuclear weapons, has published a new book entitled *Security Without Nuclear Deterrence*. The book debunks the myth of nuclear deterrence, explains the flaws in deterrence and shows a better path to achieving national and global security. We highly recommend this book to anyone interested in understanding the dangers in past and present nuclear weapons strategies and the need to seek new strategies of security without nuclear weapons.

The book is available for purchase on amazon.com by [clicking here](#).

New Briefing Booklet from the World Future Council

The World Future Council (WFC) has published a briefing booklet for the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. The booklet, entitled *Securing a Nuclear Weapon-Free World Today: Our Responsibility to Future Generations*, features articles by Nuclear Age Peace Foundation President David Krieger and other members of the WFC's disarmament working group.

[Click here](#) to download a copy of the booklet.

Foundation Activities

Nuclear Abolition Day: June 5

June 5 is "Nuclear Abolition Day" around the world. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is supporting activities around the globe that day, particularly an event that will take place close to the Foundation's headquarters in Santa Barbara, California.

During the month of June, the United States is scheduled to test fire two Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles from Vandenberg Air Force Base to the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. On June 5, there will be a

protest at the front gate of Vandenberg AFB to bring attention to the destabilizing effect these tests have on international relations. The Foundation also stands with the people of the Marshall Islands, who suffer because of these missile tests as well as from the lasting effects of atmospheric nuclear weapon testing on the Pacific islands from 1946-1958.

For more information on Nuclear Abolition Day, [click here](#).

Peace Leadership Program Update

In April, NAPF Peace Leadership Program Director Paul Chappell did outreach for NAPF in Kentucky, Maryland, and Washington D.C. He gave 22 talks to peace groups, high schools, and universities, including the keynote address at a Peace and Justice Conference at Georgetown University and a talk at American University that was filmed by Book TV. C-SPAN will air the 90 minute talk nationally during the next several weeks. [Click here](#) for a short clip of his talk.

Quotes

“It (Obama’s Nuclear Posture Review) does not go as far as it should, but it is an important down payment on a saner nuclear policy.”

-- Editorial by *The New York Times* on April 6, 2010 commenting on the new US Nuclear Posture Review

“No sane attempt to save the global ecology could ever include more money for precisely the most dangerous, destructive, dirty and deficit-ridden energy technology ever devised.”

-- **Harvey Wasserman** commenting on nuclear energy in an essay entitled “Chernobyl Demands a Real Climate Bill.”

“The United Nations stands today at a new Ground Zero — a “ground zero” for global disarmament, no longer a place of dread but of hope. Those who stand with us share the vision of a nuclear-free world. If ever there were a time for the world’s people to demand change, to demand action beyond the cautious half measures of the past, it is now.”

-- UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon** in a recent [op-ed](#) in the *International Herald Tribune*.

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