

# THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

## Issue #166 - May 2011

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## Perspectives

## **Earth Day**

by David Krieger

I keep thinking that Earth Day should be about something far more profound than recycling. Not that recycling isn't good. It's just not good enough. We humans are destroying our earth: using up its topsoil, devouring its precious resources, polluting its air and water, altering its climate. And we are bombing and shelling the earth and each other with our wasteful and destructive military technologies. In short, we are behaving extremely badly and fouling our own nest. And we are doing this not only to ourselves, but to future generations.

We live in the Nuclear Age, and nuclear weapons are the ultimate symbol of our lost connection to the earth, ourselves and each other. We have reached the point in our evolution, or devolution, at which we are willing to destroy the planet to provide ourselves with the illusion of security. Why don't we commit this Earth Day to ending the nuclear weapons threat to humanity and all life? Why don't we bring the Nuclear Age to an end and begin a new age of dignity, decency, responsibility and respect for life?

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

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## **Turning the Dream of a Nuclear-Free World Into a Reality**

by Max Kampelman and Barry Blechman

Two years ago, President Obama spoke out for universal nuclear disarmament in Prague, saying that America would seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons "clearly and with conviction." Similar statements came from Russian President Medvedev and other world leaders, culminating in September 2009 in an unprecedented UN Security Council meeting attended by the 15 members' heads-of-state that resolved to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons.

There has been some progress since this meeting; however, gains do not measure up to the goals set by the world's leaders. There is the dream, and then there is the reality.

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

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## **US Nuclear Weapons Policy**

### **Seoul Mayor Warns Against US Nuclear Weapons in South Korea**

Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon has warned against bringing US tactical nuclear weapons back to South Korea, claiming that it would provide a justification for North Korea to build up its own nuclear arsenal. "Deploying tactical nuclear weapons would not only provide North Korea a rationale to legitimately develop nuclear weapons but also provoke Japan, making Northeast Asia a nuclear powder keg of the world," Oh stated.

"Seoul Mayor Warns Against US Nukes in South Korea," *Global Security Newswire*, April 20, 2011.

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## **Nuclear Disarmament**

### **NATO Allies Discuss Curbs on Tactical Nuclear Weapons**

US Assistant Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller has announced that the Obama administration is discussing possible reductions in tactical nuclear weapons with its NATO allies. Russia currently possesses approximately 2,000 tactical nuclear weapons, while the US has around 200 tactical nuclear weapons

deployed in European countries.

“The NATO Lisbon Summit Declaration makes clear that the alliance will seek to create the conditions needed to reduce the role and number of nuclear weapons assigned to NATO. As part of this effort, we will be working with NATO to shape an approach to reduce the role and number of forward-based U.S. nonstrategic nuclear weapons in Europe, as Russia takes reciprocal steps to reduce its nonstrategic nuclear weapons and relocate them away from NATO’s borders,” Gottemoeller said.

“NATO Powers Confer on Potential Tactical Nuke Cuts,” *Global Security Newswire*, April 22, 2011.

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### **North Korea Demands Security Pledge**

Former US President Jimmy Carter visited North Korea in April to discuss stalled nuclear negotiations. Carter revealed that “the sticking point - and it’s a big one - is that they won’t give up their nuclear program without some kind of security guarantee from the US.”

Carter also said that North Korea “wants to improve relations with America and is prepared to talk without preconditions to both the US and South Korea on any subject.”

“North Korea Demands US Security Pledge to Give Up Nuclear Program: Carter,” *Global Security Newswire*, April 27, 2011.

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## **Nuclear Proliferation**

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### **British Nuclear Subs to Use Enhanced US-Made Warheads**

The United Kingdom’s nuclear-armed submarines will receive an enhanced version of the US W-76 nuclear warhead called the W-76-1, which will extend the life of its nuclear weapons program until the 2040s.

The integration of the W-76-1 provides further doubt to the UK’s claim that they field an “independent nuclear deterrent.” Their submarine-launched ballistic missiles are on loan from the US Navy; the US will provide the missile tubes for the UK’s planned replacement submarines, and the nuclear reactors on the planned new submarines indicate significant US input.

“British Trident Subs to Field Enhanced US-Made Warheads,” *Global Security Newswire*, April 4, 2011.

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### **Iran Reports Second Cyber Attack**

Iran has reported that some computers used in its nuclear program have been attacked by a computer virus called Stars. The exact target and impact have not been announced. The latest virus attack comes just months after the Stuxnet virus hit many computers related to Iran’s nuclear program.

Iranian officials claim that they were able to neutralize Stuxnet before it did major damage. However, Iran’s Bushehr nuclear power plant is still not online after months of additional delays. Iran blames the United States and Israel for developing Stuxnet.

Mostafavi, Ramin, “Iran Says It Has Detected Second Cyber Attack,” *Reuters*, April 25, 2011.

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## **Nuclear Energy and Waste**

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## **Japan Prohibits Access to Nuclear Exclusion Zone**

The Japanese government has decided to prohibit anyone from entering the 12-mile evacuation zone around the heavily damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant without official permission. The decision came after the Japanese government raised the level of severity of the accident to “7,” the highest level on the scale, equivalent to the Chernobyl nuclear disaster 25 years ago.

Bradsher, Keith, “Japan Prohibits Access to Nuclear Evacuation Zone,” *The New York Times*, April 20, 2011.

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## **Military-Industrial Complex**

### **Operating Costs for New F-35 Fighter Jet Will Exceed \$1 Trillion**

A new cost estimate from the Pentagon indicates that it will likely cost at least \$1 trillion to operate the planned fleet of F-35 Joint Strike Fighter jets over their expected 30-year life. This is a 9.3% increase over the estimate provided last year. The trillion dollar total is in addition to the estimated \$382 billion in design and production costs.

The US is currently planning a Life Extension Program (LEP) redesign for the B-61 nuclear warhead that will enable the weapon to fit on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. The B-61 LEP will not be completed until at least 2022. The B-61 is the tactical nuclear weapon deployed by the US in six European countries. An article above in this edition of *The Sunflower* explains that the US is discussing the possibility of removing its tactical nuclear weapons from Europe.

Capaccio, Tony, “Lockheed Martin F-35 Operating Costs May Reach \$1 Trillion,” *Bloomberg*, April 21, 2011.

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## **War and Peace**

### **Global and US Military Spending Hits All-Time High**

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has reported that global military spending reached an all-time high in 2010, totaling over \$1.6 trillion. Globally, this represents a 1.3% increase over 2009 spending.

The United States increased its spending by 2.8% to \$698 billion, six times as much as China, the next-biggest spender. According to a statement by SIPRI, “The United States has increased its military spending by 81 percent since 2001.”

Ringstrom, Anna, “Global Military Spending Hits High but Growth Slows,” *Reuters*, April 10, 2011.

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### **Al-Qaeda Members Warned of Nuclear Attack**

President Obama announced that Osama Bin Laden was killed in Pakistan on May 1. According to the files on Guantanamo Bay recently released by Wikileaks, numerous alleged Al-Qaeda operatives warned that the group was in possession of a nuclear device that would be exploded in Europe in the event of Osama Bin Laden’s death. The statements were made at various times over the past decade by such figures as Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, and Abu Al-Libi, the former operational chief of Al-Qaeda, during their detention at Guantanamo Bay. Credible allegations of torture at Guantanamo

Bay cast doubt on the veracity of the claims. There is no clear evidence that Al-Qaeda has acquired a nuclear bomb or nuclear material.

Watt, Holly, "Wikileaks: Al-Qaeda Plotted Nuclear and Chemical Attack on the West," *Daily Telegraph*, April 26, 2011.

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## Resources

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### **Six Myths About Nuclear Weapons**

Ward Wilson, director of the Rethinking Nuclear Weapons project, was interviewed recently by the TalkWorks project in London. In the 15-minute interview, Wilson highlights six myths that are preventing real progress on the elimination of nuclear weapons.

[Click here](#) to watch the full interview.

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### **Report on Health Effects of Chernobyl**

The German affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War has published a report on the health effects of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster 25 years after the accident. The authors conclude that the genetic defects caused by Chernobyl will continue to trouble the world for a long time to come – with most of the effects not becoming apparent until the second or third generation.

To read the full report, [click here](#).

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## Foundation Activities

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### **Video Contest Winners Announced**

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has announced the winners of its 2011 Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest. We received 80 entries in this year's contest, which addressed the topic: "*How would the world look if the funds allocated to nuclear weapons throughout the Nuclear Age (\$7.5 trillion) had been spent instead on building a more decent world?*"

The winning videos by Maggie Haggerty, Lisa Marie Smith and Josh Garrett are available to watch online [here](#).

Congratulations to all 80 people who submitted to this year's contest for their hard work and dedication.

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### **NAPF Interns at Clinton Global Initiative**

NAPF interns Jillian Forte, Justin Galle, Jameisha Washington and Olivia Wong traveled to San Diego in April to participate in the Clinton Global Initiative University summit. The NAPF team is now working to get more young people involved across the United States through their Youth for a Nuclear Weapons Free World (YFNWFW) group, which they launched on Earth Day 2011.

To find out more about the interns' experience at the Clinton Global Initiative and to find out more about their plans for the future, [click here](#) to read their blog.

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## Action Alert: Support HR1334

In April, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation issued an Action Alert asking members to contact their Congressional representative regarding HR1334, the Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Economic and Energy Conversion Act of 2011. Over 5,300 people have already contacted their representative about this issue. Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN) decided to co-sponsor the bill after hearing from constituents about its importance.

The bill calls on the United States to provide leadership to negotiate an international agreement that will lead to the dismantlement and elimination of all nuclear weapons in every country by not later than 2020.

If you have not yet written to your representative about co-sponsoring HR1334, please take a moment to do so today through NAPF's Action Alert Network. [Click here](#) to take action.

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## DC Days Lobbying Event Is a Success

NAPF Director of Programs Rick Wayman traveled to Washington, DC in April to join over 80 grassroots activists from around the country for the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability's annual DC Days lobbying event. Rick personally met with members of Congress and their staff from six states to talk about the urgent need to achieve the elimination of all nuclear weapons.

Consistent with the current agreement in Congress about the need to cut the budget, Rick highlighted the [High Risk Report](#) produced by the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, which examines the top nine Department of Energy nuclear projects that are busting the budget. Some of the programs discussed in the report include the new Uranium Processing Facility in Tennessee, the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement Project in New Mexico and the new Kansas City Plant in Missouri.

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## Quotes

"The [nuclear] deterrent does not cover the case of lunatics or dictators in the mood of Hitler when he found himself in his final dugout. This is a blank."

-- **Winston Churchill**, speaking in 1955 about a key flaw in the theory of nuclear deterrence.

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"Genetic heritage is the most precious property for human beings. It determines the lives of our progeny, health and harmonious development of future generations. As experts, we affirm that the health of future generations is threatened by increasing development of the atomic industry and sources of radiation."

-- Statement of the **World Health Organization** in 1956.

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"Today, for the first time, I saw Chernobyl. It looms as a menacing monument to mistakes of the century now slipping away from us; a hulking symbol of human decisions unworthy of our children."

-- Former US Vice-President **Al Gore** in a 1998 speech at the Chernobyl Museum in Kiev, Ukraine.

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## Editorial Team

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