

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

North Korea's Bomb Test Message

by David Krieger

When a country tests a nuclear weapon, it is sending a message. It is not always clear, however, what that message is. In the case of the recent nuclear test by North Korea, some commentators have argued that the North Koreans are sending a “pay attention to me” message to the international community and particularly the United States. Other commentators have argued that the nuclear test was carried out for domestic purposes, to inspire the country with a display of technological prowess.

To read more, visit http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2009/05/28_krieger_nk_test.php.

Remarks to the NPT PrepCom

by Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General

For too long, the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agenda has been stagnating in a Cold War mentality. In 2005, the world experienced what might be called a disarmament depression. The NPT Review Conference that year ended in disappointment. The UN World Summit outcome contained not even a single line on weapons of mass destruction.

Today, we seem to be emerging from that low point. The change has come in recent weeks. But it is unfolding against a backdrop of multiple threats that, while urgent, tend to obscure the urgency of the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda.

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

Nuclear Disarmament

US and Russia Begin Nuclear Reduction Talks

Russia and the United States have begun renegotiating the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which expires in December 2009. The closed meetings are meant to resolve as many questions as possible before the summit between President Obama and President Medvedev in July.

One issue of contention is the US plan to install missile defense components in the Czech Republic and Poland. Russia feels threatened by this move, and talks may stall if the missile defense plans move forward. In 1986, President Reagan and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev were close to achieving an agreement to abolish all nuclear weapons, but Reagan's refusal to give up missile defense plans caused the Reykjavik Summit to end in failure.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation recently issued an action alert calling on President Obama to engage in meaningful negotiations for a new START treaty. To take action, visit <http://capwiz.com/wagingpeace/issues/alert/?alertid=13394451>.

Barry, Ellen, “US and Russia Begin Arms Talks With a December Deadline,” *New York Times*, May 19, 2009.

Conference on Disarmament Achieves Breakthrough

The 65-nation Conference on Disarmament achieved a breakthrough as diplomats agreed on a “program of work,” aimed at negotiating a new nuclear arms control treaty. The new treaty will likely ban the production of fissile materials used in creating atomic weapons. The new work program addresses concerns of the non-nuclear states such as banning existing stockpiles of fissile matter and receiving security assurances against the use or threat of attack with nuclear weapons.

Criticized over its recent nuclear test by the UN Security Council, North Korea has also supported the new program. Another state accused of trying to develop nuclear weapons, Iran, is still reviewing the accord. Russia and China endorsed the program, as well as the United States, which had rejected an essential component of the agreement - verification - under the Bush administration.

Higgins, Alexander, "Arms Body Breaks 12 Years of Deadlock on Nukes," [Associated Press](#), May 29, 2009.

Nuclear Proliferation

North Korea Conducts Nuclear Weapon Test

On May 25, North Korea conducted its second nuclear test. The blast of about one-third the power of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima by the United States in 1945 was conducted underground. North Korea also test-fired numerous missiles during the week, as the UN Security Council met in New York to discuss possible new sanctions against the nation.

Lee, Jean H. "Defying World Powers, N. Korea Conducts Nuke Test," [Associated Press](#), May 25, 2009.

US Maintains

A senior Israeli diplomat claimed that the Obama administration will not force Israel to come clean about its presumed possession of hundreds of nuclear weapons. The claim was made after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with President Obama in the White House on May 18.

Israel officially maintains ambiguity around the question of its possession of nuclear weapons; however, information revealed by whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu in the *Sunday Times* of London in 1986 confirms Israel's position as the only country in the Middle East to possess nuclear weapons. Vanunu was jailed for 18 years by Israel for revealing the information and remains under house arrest in Jerusalem.

"US Keeps Nuclear 'Don't Ask Don't Tell': Israeli Aide," [Reuters](#), May 21, 2009.

Nuclear Insanity

British Farmers Still Restricted by Chernobyl Fallout

The British government has admitted that nearly 370 farms in the country are still restricted in the way they use land and rear sheep because of radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear power station accident 23 years ago.

Dr David Lowry, a member of Nuclear Waste Advisory Associates, said the figures demonstrated the "unforgiving hazards" of radioactivity dispersed into the environment, whether from Chernobyl in Ukraine, thousands of miles away, or over decades from the Faslane nuclear submarine base in Scotland.

Paul Dorfman, a former government advisor and a senior research fellow at the University of Warwick, was also concerned. "Despite all the reassurances from government about nuclear safety ahead of a new civil nuclear program in Britain, the latest revelations about the continuing Chernobyl legacy show the dangerous reality of atomic power," he said.

Macalister, Terry and Helen Carter, "Britain's Farmers Still Restricted by Chernobyl Nuclear Fallout," [The Guardian](#), May 13, 2009.

Missile Defense

Poland to Receive US Patriot Missiles

Poland will receive US Patriot missiles regardless of whether or not the United States places a missile defense shield on Polish soil, according to Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski.

The plan was originally intended as a reward for Poland's agreement to host a part of a US missile defense program. However, President Obama has not indicated whether his administration will move forward with the missile defense plan in Eastern Europe.

"Poland Will Get Patriot Missile System from the US, Foreign Minister Says," [Associated Press](#), May 21, 2009.

Proposed European Missile Defense System Judged Ineffective

A group of top American and Russian scientists concluded that the proposed missile defense shield in Eastern Europe would be ineffective against Iran's nuclear and missile programs. After a year-long study, the East-West Institute team, composed of 12 senior technical experts, agreed that the system will not defend Europe against the types of missiles Tehran is likely to deploy in the future.

A copy of the report can be downloaded from <http://docs.ewi.info/JTA.pdf>.

Warrick, Joby and R. Jeffrey Smith, "US-Russian Team Deems Missile Shield in Europe Ineffective," [The Washington Post](#), May 19, 2009.

Nuclear Energy and Waste

France and Pakistan Make Nuclear Deal

France and Pakistan have decided to cooperate on civilian nuclear power. However, there remains confusion over what the deal entails. While Pakistani officials claim that France is to supply Pakistan with nuclear technology, France states it only agreed to help in the field of nuclear safety.

Legally, France is not in the position to begin transferring nuclear technology to Pakistan because Pakistan has not yet signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. However, France has pledged 12 million euros in humanitarian aid and offered support for the fight against terrorist groups in the region.

The United States and India signed a nuclear deal in 2008 even though India is not a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"Pakistan in French Nuclear Deal," [BBC News](#), May 15, 2009.

Resources

Global Nuclear Futures Briefing Book

The Nautilus Institute's *Global Nuclear Futures Briefing Book* aims to inform the debate over the future of nuclear power by including expert analysis from a variety of perspectives, pro- and anti-nuclear, government and non-government. It

covers a variety of technical and policy issues, as well as country-specific topics. The Briefing Book seeks a diversity of views and welcomes suggestions for additional material to include.

Current topics covered include nuclear economics; nuclear power and climate change; US global nuclear policy; nuclear proliferation; energy security; uranium mining and enrichment; spent fuel and waste; nuclear fuel cycle; nuclear reactor safety; and new nuclear reactors. Countries covered include Australia, Japan, China, the United States and Indonesia.

The Briefing Book is available at: <http://www.globalcollab.org/Nautilus/programs/energy-security/nuclear-briefing-book>.

Abolition 2000 Launches Abolition Flame Campaign

Abolition 2000, a network of over 2,000 organizations in 90 countries working to eliminate nuclear weapons, has just launched the Abolition Flame Campaign.

Inspired in part by the “Hiroshima Flame” kindled 57 years ago from embers of the atomic bombing of Japan, the Abolition Flame Campaign aims to promote time-bound negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention to begin in 2010, with the elimination of nuclear weapons completed by 2020 under strict and effective international control.

The campaign aims to have 25,000 letters sent to President Obama and President Medvedev - one letter for each nuclear weapon in the world.

To participate in the campaign, visit <http://www.abolitionflame.org>.

Young Scientists Cooperate for Peace

From August 2-15, the Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker Centre for Science and Peace Research (ZNF), in Hamburg, Germany, is holding a summer academy for young students and scientists to promote and secure peace for the future. The goal is to refine the students’ scientific expertise in arms control and global conflict-resolution.

Applications are due by June 15 to scoop@uni-hamburg.de. Further information can be found at <http://www.znf.uni-hamburg.de/scoop.html>.

Foundation Activities

Video and Poetry Contests End Soon

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

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>.

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>.

Foundation Distributes Sunflowers to Hundreds

On May 15, staff and volunteers from the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation distributed hundreds of sunflowers to students and faculty at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Sunflowers have been known as an international symbol of a nuclear weapons-free world since 1996, when the Defense Ministers of the United States, Russia and Ukraine planted sunflowers in a field where Soviet missiles targeting the United States were once stationed.

The flowers were donated by a local flower farmer who wanted to spread the message of a nuclear weapons-free world in a creative way. To get involved in working for a nuclear weapons-free world, contact us at http://www.wagingpeace.org/email_staff.php?person=rwayman.

Survivors of Hiroshima Atomic Bombing on Video

In September 2008, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation hosted two survivors of the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945. The two women, Junko Kayashige and Miyako Yano, spoke eloquently about their experiences to a standing room-only crowd at Santa Barbara City College.

The event was captured on video by University of California Television. To watch the video online, visit the UCTV website at <http://www.uctv.tv/search-details.aspx?showID=16446>. The program is also being aired on the UCTV station offered on many cable and satellite TV providers around the country – check the aforementioned website for times and dates.

Success at the Non-Proliferation Treaty PrepCom

The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) PrepCom was held in early May at the United Nations in New York City. Two representatives of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, David Krieger and Rick Wayman, attended the conference. The mood was favorable at this year's conference in contrast to previous years when there was not much hope for progress on nuclear disarmament.

An agenda was agreed upon for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which is in itself a sign of progress since the 2005 Review Conference took more than a week of conference time to achieve an agenda. Delegates expressed much hope for true progress, often referencing President Obama's speech in Prague in April 2009. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will be working hard in the coming year to ensure that substantive, meaningful action happens at the 2010 Review Conference.

The Foundation held a panel discussion at this year's PrepCom featuring many knowledgeable and influential speakers including the Mayor of Hiroshima, Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba. Writing in the *News In Review*, WILPF Secretary General Susi Snyder said, "Mayor Akiba presented an urgent and emotional appeal - we need to abolish nuclear weapons while the Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) are still alive. We must 'usher ethics back into international politics.'"

Quotes

"Nuclear weapons remain an apocalyptic threat. We cannot afford to place disarmament and non-proliferation on a backburner. Let us not be lulled into complacency. Let us not miss the opportunity to make our societies safer and more prosperous."

-- United Nations Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon**, in prepared remarks opening the 2009 Preparatory Committee of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"We think the effort is of such a nature and of such importance that it rises above what ought to be partisan in nature. There's plenty to argue about and plenty to study and work on. But let's do it on the merits of the subject on a non-partisan basis."

-- Former US Secretary of State **George Shultz**, speaking about nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation following a meeting with President Obama on May 19, 2009.

“The Administration proposes to cancel development of the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) - a new design warhead intended to replace the current inventory of nuclear weapons - because it is not consistent with Presidential commitments to move towards a nuclear-free world.”

-- From a **White House** document explaining the elimination of the Reliable Replacement Warhead from the administration’s proposed 2010 budget.

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