

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

The 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference

by David Krieger

One very positive outcome of the Review Conference was its endorsement of practical steps to achieve a Middle East Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone. The Final Document called up the UN Secretary-General, along with others, to convene a regional conference in 2012 for the establishment of a “Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.”

The 2010 NPT Review Conference resulted in a reaffirmation by the nuclear weapon states of their “unequivocal undertaking to accomplish...the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.” In the end, the Final Document was largely aspirational. It brought the parties back to where they stood in the year 2000, but provided few specific guidelines for success to measure progress in 2015. One such guideline, albeit a difficult one, will be the attainment of a Middle East Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone.

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

It's Time to Rid the World of Nuclear Weapons

by Archbishop Desmond Tutu

This year the nuclear bomb turns 65 – an appropriate age, by international standards, for compulsory retirement. But do our leaders have the courage and wisdom to rid the planet of this ultimate menace? The five-yearly review of the ailing nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, currently under way at the United Nations in New York, will test the strength of governments' commitment to a nuclear-weapon-free world.

If they are serious about realizing this vision, they will work now to shift the focus from the failed policy of nuclear arms control, which assumes that a select few states can be trusted with these weapons, to nuclear abolition. Just as we have outlawed other categories of particularly inhuman and indiscriminate weapons – from biological and chemical agents to anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions – we must now turn

our attention to outlawing the most iniquitous weapons of all.

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

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

US Reveals Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Numbers

On the opening day of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, the United States revealed the number of nuclear weapons in its arsenal.

According to the fact sheet, which can be downloaded from [NAPF's Nuclear Files website](#), the United States has 5,113 operational nuclear weapons either deployed or in reserve, with "several thousand" additional nuclear weapons awaiting dismantlement.

Nuclear Disarmament

Nuclear Disarmament Laboratories

Britain's most senior scientist called upon the United Nations to establish a network of laboratories specialized in detecting and dismantling nuclear weapons. Sir Martin Rees, President of the Royal Society, said scientists must develop verification technologies now so they are in place when agreements to cut nuclear stockpiles are reached.

The labs would take a central role in policing countries' efforts to reduce their stockpiles of warheads, a move experts see as crucial for building trust with other states that are thinking about developing their own nuclear weapons.

Sample, Ian, "[Martin Rees Calls on UN to Establish Nuclear Disarmament Laboratories](#)," *The Guardian*, May 19, 2010.

NATO Must Decide on Removing US Tactical Nukes, Albright Says

The decision to remove tactical weapons from Europe should be left to NATO countries according to Madeline Albright, who chaired the NATO Strategic Concept Expert Group. The new draft of their revised mission statement recommends keeping "an estimated 200 US air-dropped gravity bombs in a half-dozen military bases throughout Europe." Many people around the world believe the US should unilaterally remove its nuclear weapons based in Europe as they are adverse to President Obama's disarmament policy and are obsolete 20 years after the end of the Cold War.

The push to withdraw tactical 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.

Matishak, Martin, "[NATO Must Decide on Removing U.S. Tactical Nukes, Albright Says](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, May 21, 2010.

Britain Reveals Nuclear Arsenal Numbers

Following the May 3 release by the United States of its nuclear arsenal numbers, the UK released the number of weapons in its nuclear arsenal. Britain currently maintains 225 operational warheads. By disclosing the number of weapons, Britain hopes to bolster trust between those nations with a nuclear arsenal and those without, thereby creating a better climate in which to pursue nuclear disarmament.

Questions still remain, however, regarding the future of strategic ballistic missile submarines (SSBMs). Currently, British Lib-Dems and Conservatives disagree as to the replacement policy regarding the Trident-armed SSBMs. The Lib-Dems oppose the renewal of the Trident system on economic grounds, but have agreed to a compromise with the Conservatives on the basis that the program is "closely [scrutinized] for value for money."

"[UK to be 'More Open' About Nuclear Warhead Levels](#)," *BBC News*, May 26, 2010.

Nuclear Proliferation

Iran Signs Uranium Exchange Deal with Brazil and Turkey

Iran signed an agreement with Turkey and Brazil that would send 1,200 kilograms of Low Enriched Uranium (LEU), about half of Iran's supply, to Turkey in exchange for nuclear material to be used at Tehran's medical research facility. This agreement comes after a previously rejected UN plan proposing similar terms.

Iran is promising to submit the agreement to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); however, the US has expressed concern about the legitimacy of such promises. US concerns include Iran's ability to continue enriching uranium to the twenty percent level and the possibility of Iran eventually developing the capability to enrich to weapon-grade levels (90%).

"[Iran Signs Uranium Exchange Deal with Brazil, Turkey](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, May 17, 2010.

Nuclear Insanity

Energy "Expert": Nuking Oil Leak Is the Only Thing We Can Do

Matt Simmons, founder of energy investment bank Simmons & Company, advocates the use of a nuclear bomb to seal off the BP oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico, especially given the discovery of a larger second leak

five to seven miles from the original.

Simmons refers to Russia's four successful uses of nuclear bombs to contain gas leaks dating as far back to 1966. The Russian bombs were drilled into the ocean floor near the leaks and then detonated. Simmons states that the detonation should have little effect on the surface. BP officials are unlikely to seriously consider the idea.

Tencer, Daniel, "[Energy Expert: Nuking Oil Leak 'Only Thing We Can Do,'](#)" *The Raw Story*, May 29, 2010.

Missile Defense

Russia Voices Concern Regarding US Patriot Missiles in Poland

A Russian Foreign Ministry official stated that Russia is confused by the sudden decision by the US to deploy Patriot missiles in Poland, just 44 miles from Kaliningrad—a Russian outpost that is not contiguous with the rest of the country. The missiles, which are air-defense weapons, were deployed in Poland on May 23 as part of the first stage of a rotating two-year deployment. Previously, President Obama announced that the US would not adhere to the missile deployment plan promulgated by the Bush administration, which included placing Patriot missiles in Poland as well as omni-directional X-Band radar systems in the Czech Republic. This plan was scrapped partly to ensure better US-Russian relations.

Russian President Dmitri Medvedev stated that Russia is prepared to deploy short-range Iskander missiles to Kaliningrad if the US builds a European missile defense shield.

Arkhipov, Ilya, "[Russia Baffled by US Deployment of Patriot Missiles in Poland,](#)" *Business Week*, May 26, 2010.

US Officials Allay Republican Missile Defense Concerns

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Defense Secretary Robert Gates dispelled Republican fears that the new START follow-on treaty would limit US missile defense systems. Moscow has always voiced its opposition to a US missile shield in the European theater, and thus Russian officials reserved the right to withdraw from the new START treaty if they felt the US system threatened their national security.

Secretary Gates stated that Russia has always been wary of US missile defenses, but that START did not limit US missile shield ambitions. In September 2009, President Obama outlined his new four-phase adaptive approach to missile defense, a departure from the Bush administration's plans.

"[START Places No Limit on US Missile Defense: Clinton, Gates,](#)" *Agence France Presse*, May 18, 2010.

New Review Proclaims the SM-3 a Failure

A new report issued by antimissile critics at MIT and Cornell refutes the Pentagon's assertion that the Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) is a success. Researchers Theodore A. Postol and George N. Lewis claim that the SM-3 successfully intercepts incoming nuclear warheads only 10%-20% of the time rather than the 84% interception rate claimed by the US government.

The SM-3 is the cornerstone to President Obama's new missile defense plan, which is designed to counter Iranian missile threats and allow for reductions in the US nuclear arsenal. President Obama scrapped the missile defense plan envisioned by his predecessor, George W. Bush, on the grounds that it relied too heavily on unproven and untested weapons systems. The new system, proclaimed President Obama, was to be based upon systems he maintained were "proven" and "effective." This new report casts doubts on whether or not such is the case with the key interceptor, the SM-3.

Broad, William J. and David E. Sanger, "[Review Cites Flaws in US Antimissile Program](#)," *The New York Times*, May 17, 2010.

Military-Industrial Complex

US Space Industry May Lose Its Edge

Brett Lambert, the Pentagon's chief industrial policy chief, stated that US dominance in the space industry is being challenged by firms in Europe and Asia. He supports the use of export controls to boost the industry. He also advocates a more transparent relationship between the industry and the Pentagon in order to make the industry globally competitive.

Boessenkool, Antonie, "[DoD: U.S. Space Industry May Lose Edge](#)," *Defense News*, May 25, 2010.

War and Peace

South Korea Accuses North Korea of Sinking Warship

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak lashed back against North Korea, the alleged source of a torpedo which sank the South Korean patrol ship *Cheonan* on 26 March 2010, killing 46 sailors. Following an official report naming North Korea as the aggressor, President Lee is seeking support from UN Security Council members before reporting North Korea to the Council, which could prompt new sanctions.

President Lee has already halted all "commerce, finance, or visitations with the North," and Seoul plans on scaling back cooperative efforts at a joint industrial site. South Korea has also asserted its right to self-defense should North Korea invade the South's airspace, waters, or territories. The DPRK, which denies any involvement in the sinking of the *Cheonan*, has made a strong case for its innocence in this incident. Nevertheless, North Korea threatened to engage in an "all-out-war" should it incur further penalties.

The US staunchly backs the South Koreans, and jointly raised the threat level from Watchcon-2 to Watchcon-3, which denotes signs of looming danger from North Korea.

"South Korea Begins Punishing North Over Ship Sinking," *Global Security Newswire*, May 24, 2010.

Rep. Grayson: The War Is Making You Poor

Congressman Alan Grayson of Florida recently introduced "The War is Making you Poor Act." The bill seeks to limit funding for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars to a portion of the Pentagon's \$549 billion budget for 2011. It also proposes to eliminate income tax on the first \$35,000 of every American's income by using the \$159 billion originally set aside for emergency spending in the wars. Proponents of the bill claim that it will also lower the deficit by \$15.9 billion.

Grayson, Alan, "The War Is Making You Poor Act," *The Huffington Post*, May 21, 2010.

Resources

New Book: The End of War

NAPF Peace Leadership Program Director Paul Chappell has just published a new book entitled *The End of War: How Waging Peace Can Save Humanity, Our Planet and Our Future*. The new book is a follow-on to Chappell's first book *Will War Ever End?*

Archbishop Desmond Tutu said of *The End of War*, "Captain Paul K. Chappell has given us a crucial look at war and peace from the unique perspective of a soldier, and his new ideas show us why world peace is both necessary and possible in the 21st Century. *The End of War* can help people everywhere understand why war must end, and how together we can end it."

You can order the book online by [clicking here](#).

Abolition Caucus Final Statement on NPT Review Conference

The Abolition Caucus, of which the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is a member, issued a final statement at the close of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

The statement says in part, "We have not resigned ourselves to another five years without an action plan for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Upon the conclusion of this Review Conference, NGOs will immediately reach out to those States who have voiced support for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, and will explore steps we can take together to build a global foundation for such a treaty."

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

Foundation Activities

Report to UN Secretary-General on NAPF Disarmament Education Activities

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has submitted a report to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on its nuclear disarmament education activities. The NAPF report will make up a portion of the "Report of the Secretary-General to the 65th Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the 2002 UN Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education."

To read the Foundation's report, [click here](#).

Paul Chappell on C-SPAN's Book TV

Paul Chappell, NAPF Peace Leadership Program Director, talked to students at American University in Washington, DC about war and human nature. The class, which focuses on nonviolence, is the creation of Center for Teaching Peace founder and former *Washington Post* columnist Colman McCarthy.

The full talk as well as the question and answer session is being screened on C-SPAN's Book TV throughout the month of June. You can also [click here](#) to watch the program online for free.

Take Action: Ratify the New START Agreement Without Preconditions

Thousands of members have already taken action through the NAPF Action Alert network to ask their Senators to ratify the New START agreement without any preconditions, such as billions of dollars in new funding for the US nuclear weapons complex.

The Obama administration is proposing large increases in the US nuclear weapons budget in the hopes of receiving Senate support for ratification of the New START agreement. The current proposal calls for an outlay of \$180 billion over the next 10 years to upgrade the United States' nuclear weapons production facilities and strategic delivery systems. This will increase the \$54 billion currently being spent on nuclear weapons in the US, which is already higher than what was spent during an average Cold War year.

[Click here](#) to take action on this important issue.

June 5 Is Nuclear Abolition Day

Saturday, June 5 is Nuclear Abolition Day around the world. Events are happening in many cities; check the Nuclear Abolition Day website to see if there is an event in your area.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is supporting two events in Southern California on Nuclear Abolition Day: a protest outside the gates of Vandenberg Space Command, from where nuclear-capable Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) are test-launched; and outside the gates of Los Angeles Air Force Base, which helps with the targeting and tracking of ICBM launches.

To download a flyer for the California events, [click here](#).

NAPF Peace Poetry Contest: Deadline July 1

July 1 is the deadline for entering the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Contest. The annual contest encourages poets to explore and illuminate positive visions of peace and the human spirit. The Poetry Awards include three age categories: Adult, Youth 13-18, and Youth 12 & Under.

For more information, including contest guidelines and links to past winners, [click here](#).

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