

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

Imagine

by David Krieger

Imagine there are still 27,000 nuclear weapons in the world, over 15 years after the end of the Cold War.

Imagine that 12,000 of these weapons are deployed, and that 3,500 of them are on hair-trigger alert, ready to be fired in a matter of moments.

Imagine that the use of a single nuclear weapon could destroy a city, and the use of a small number could destroy civilization.

Imagine the horror and devastation of Hiroshima, and multiply it by every city and country on earth.

Imagine that a nuclear war could end human life on our planet, and that the capacity to initiate a nuclear war rests in the hands of only a small number of men.

Imagine that nuclear weapons threaten the future of humanity and all life.

To read more, visit: http://wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/06/27_krieger_imagine.htm.

We Want Results on Disarmament

by UK Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett

What we need is both vision - a scenario for a world free of nuclear weapons. And action - progressive steps to reduce warhead numbers and to limit the role of nuclear weapons in security policy. These two strands are separate but they are mutually reinforcing. Both are necessary, both at the moment are too weak. Believing that the eventual abolition of nuclear weapons is possible can act as a spur for action on disarmament. Believing, at whatever level, that it is not possible, is the surest path to inaction.

To read more, please visit: http://wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/06/28_beckett_we_want_results.htm.

War and Occupation in Iraq

A New NGO Report

As the Iraq crisis deepens, this new NGO report provides a comprehensive and original analysis of the conflict. Prepared by Global Policy Forum and co-sponsored by 30 NGOs, the report sheds new light on the US Coalition role in the country and the terrible violence there.

To read more, please visit: http://wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/06/27_war_and_occupation_in_iraq.htm.

Nuclear Proliferation

North Korea Says It Will Shut Down Nuclear Plant

North Korea has said that it will fulfill its promise to shut down its main nuclear plant now that it has received the disputed \$25 million that had been frozen in a Chinese bank.

The \$25 million given to North Korea is from funds that had previously been frozen by the US government. Last February, a deal was struck that in exchange for North Korea's promise to seal its nuclear reactor in Yongbyon and its adjacent fuel-reprocessing plant, certain North Korean bank accounts would be unfrozen.

The International Atomic Energy Agency will meet in Pyongyang to discuss a timetable for shutting down the reactor and technical details of monitoring and verification. "As the funds that had been frozen at Macao's Banco Delta Asia have been transferred as we demanded, the troublesome issue of the frozen funds is finally resolved," the official North Korean KCNA press agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying. "We too will start implementing the Feb. 13 agreement on the principle of action for action."

North Korea said it would use the released money "for improving the standard of people's living and humanitarian purposes," as the United States demanded. But neither the US or North Korea spoke of any

type of method of verifying how the money is spent.

Source: Sang-Hun, Choe, "North Korea Receives Funds and Says It Will Shut Down Its Main Nuclear Reactor," *Associated Press*, 25 June 2007.

Senators Tell Bush Administration Not to Let START Expire

Senator Richard Lugar, R-IN, co-founder of the program that has assisted in the dismantling and securing of substantial amounts of Russian nuclear forces, encouraged the Bush administration not to end bilateral inspections of Russian and US nuclear arsenals.

Referring to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which expires in 2009, Senator Lugar stated, "I'm concerned that transparency and verification will suffer if legally binding regimes are permitted to dissolve. The predictability and confidence provided by treaty verification reduces the chances of misinterpretation, miscalculation and error."

Senator Joseph Biden, D-Del., the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, also sounded the alarm. "I think it would be the single greatest negative legacy this administration could leave if it leaves us in a situation where there is no future architecture to follow on to START," he said.

The Bush administration wants to replace the verification system under START with a more informal system, but US intelligence officials dispute this plan. The intelligence agencies want to maintain current verification because it allows them to monitor Russia's arsenal. The Bush administration wants to eliminate binding measures in order to replace nuclear warheads with conventional warheads on intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Weapons of mass destruction are the top national security threat to both countries, and "success in this area would enhance national security and improve the prospects of US-Russian cooperation in other policy areas," Senator Lugar said.

Source: Schoof, Renee, "Bush Urged Not To Replace Nuclear Arms Inspections," *Miami Herald*, 22 June 2007.

Nuclear Insanity

LANL Celebrates New Nuclear Weapons

On June 7th, Los Alamos National Laboratory finished production on the first certified plutonium pit for a nuclear weapon produced in the last 18 years.

The pit, which will be assembled at the Pantex plant in Amarillo, Texas, will be placed in a W-88 nuclear warhead fitted for a Trident submarine. The US has not made a plutonium pit since 1989 when the plutonium factory in Rocky Flats, Colorado was shut down due to environmental contamination.

In 1996, the Department of Energy re-established a pit-manufacturing center at Los Alamos. The first pit was produced in 2003. Since then, the lab has been perfecting a certification process. The certification process was determined in the summer of 2006 and the work of certification began in November. The National Nuclear Security Agency plans to build 10 new certified pits per year for new nuclear weapons.

The lab went as far as to invite Congressional delegates and dignitaries on July 2 to celebrate the first certified pit. Jay Coghlan, the director of Nuclear Watch New Mexico, stated "Los Alamos should prioritize real national security threats like global climate change and the proliferation of nuclear weapons, instead of

encouraging proliferation through new nuclear weapons production.”

Source: Wong, Raam, “LANL Celebrates First Certified Pit in 18 Years,” *Albuquerque Journal*, 8 June 2007.

Waste at Los Alamos Missing

Los Alamos National Laboratory is missing drums of radioactive waste. After a four-month long inventory conducted at Los Alamos, 38 containers of radioactive waste are unaccounted-for.

Some lab directors believe that the barrels are not missing and it is a problem with record keeping. “Obviously we’re very concerned because this does indicate we do have some historic inventory issues,” LANL spokesman James Rickman said.

The missing drums are part of 20,000 containers of highly toxic and dangerous transuranic waste stored at the lab’s Area G. The discrepancy was announced in a memo released May 4 by the Defense Nuclear Safety Board.

Greg Mello, of the Los Alamos Study Group, released a written statement saying that the missing material was enough to make an advanced nuclear weapon. Mello also said that the broader issue is that Los Alamos “has thousands of drums of plutonium-contaminated waste that is going nowhere fast, and they’re making more of it and they have big waste-handling problems.”

Source: “38 Drums of Radioactive Waste Unaccounted-For,” *Albuquerque Journal*, 5 June 2007.

Resources

The Stockpile Stewardship Program: Fifteen Years On

by A. Fitzpatrick and I. Oelrich

This report, published by the Federation of American Scientists in April 2007, is a review of Stockpile Stewardship experiments. The report looks at the necessity of Stockpile Stewardship Experiments to maintain confidence in the current nuclear stockpile. For information, go to:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/weapons/RL34051.pdf>.

Long-Range Ballistic Missile Defense in Europe

Congressional Research Service Report

This report, written by Steven A. Hildreth, Specialist in National Defense Foreign Affairs, and Carl Ek, Specialist in International Relations Foreign Affairs, from the Defense and Trade Division of the Congressional Research Service, is an analysis of missile defense programs planned for Europe. It is an analysis of the ground-based mid-course defense (GMD) element of the larger Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) that would be deployed in Europe. For more information, go to:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/weapons/RL34051.pdf>.

American University Study Tour in Japan, July 30 - August 11, 2007

Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Beyond

Led by Professor Peter Kuznick, this course explores Japanese wartime aggression, the human physical devastation wrought by the atomic bombings, current Japanese and international efforts to eliminate nuclear

weapons, and the building of closer ties between the peoples of the United States and Japan. Students live and study with Japanese and other Asian students, professors, peace activists and policy experts. Participants meet with atomic bomb survivors and Asian victims of Japanese atrocities and hear first-hand accounts of their experiences. For information, contact: kuznick@american.edu.

Foundation Activities

New York Representative to Attend Pugwash Workshop

The Foundation's New York Representative, Alice Slater, will attend the Pugwash Extraordinary Workshop at Pugwash Nova Scotia, July 5-7, for the 50th Anniversary of the Pugwash Conferences. The Pugwash Conferences were convened to discuss the Einstein-Russell Manifesto that denounced nuclear weapons. Having expanded over the last 50 years, there have been over 275 Pugwash Conferences, Symposia, and Workshops, with a total attendance of over 10,000. In addition to nuclear weapons, the Conferences also focus on reducing the danger of all armed conflict and seeking cooperative solutions for global problems. While there, Slater will not be representing an organization or country but herself as a private individual, which is a basic rule of the Conferences.

UC Nuclear Free to Host De-Militarization Convergence

The UC Nuclear Free program will host a Coalition to De-militarize the UC convergence July 15-17. The Coalition to De-militarize the UC is a group of students, concerned citizens and anti-nuclear organizations working to sever the University of California's ties with the military and military contractors. Long-term planning, intercampus coordination, education and skill-shares are all part of the agenda. The convergence has been scheduled at the same time as a University of California Regent's meeting at UCSB and will provide an opportunity for members of the coalition to address the Regents.

To find out more about convergence, contact Will Parrish, the Foundation's Youth Empowerment Director, or visit: www.napfyouth.org.

13th Annual Sadako Peace Day

On August 9th the Foundation will host its 13th Annual Sadako Peace Day. The day will commemorate the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as well as Sadako, a girl who has inspired millions to fold paper cranes in the name of peace and nuclear disarmament. Please join us for poetry, song and reflections. This is a free event, open to the public. It will be held from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Sadako Peace Garden, La Casa de Maria, 800 El Bosque Road, Montecito.

For more information, please call the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at (805) 965-3443 or visit our website at www.wagingpeace.org.

Think Outside the Bomb National Grassroots Conference, August 16-19

The Think Outside the Bomb network is pleased to announce its third annual conference at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The four-day event will provide a backdrop for nuclear abolitionists, peace activists, ecologists and other advocates of social justice and a livable planet to learn in-depth about the threat of nuclear weapons, the destruction caused by the nuclear fuel chain, and current political opportunities to move toward nuclear disarmament. We will develop detailed strategies to guide the network's work for a nuclear-weapons free world.

The conference will feature discussion panels, workshops, dialogues and skills trainings. These sessions will be designed to help participants attain a detailed understanding of how to continue building a powerful grassroots movement for nuclear abolition. Speakers will include leading grassroots activists, nuclear weapons specialists, a Hiroshima atomic bomb survivor, leading advocates of indigenous sovereignty and many others.

For more information on the conference, please visit www.thinkoutsidethebomb.org, or contact Will Parrish at youth@napf.org or (805) 965-3443.

Quotes

Southern California Federation of Scientists

“Considering the long time required for the high-level radioactive waste to decay, the ethics of leaving this problem to future generations points to the irresponsibility of the US over the last 50 years. Other countries share in this irresponsibility. Assuming that authorities are people of essentially good character, and that technology will figure out some satisfactory solution to the problem of waste disposal is wishful thinking.”

--**Southern California Federation of Scientists**, commenting on the problems of nuclear power.

Barak Obama

“America must lead a global effort to secure all nuclear weapons and material at vulnerable sites within four years....This will require the active cooperation of Russia....We must also work with Russia to update and scale back our dangerously outdated Cold War nuclear postures and de-emphasize the role of nuclear weapons. America must not rush to produce a new generation of nuclear warheads. And we should take advantage of recent technological advances to build bipartisan consensus behind ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty....I will work to negotiate a verifiable global ban on the production of new nuclear weapons material.”

-- Democratic Presidential Candidate and Senator **Barak Obama** in the July/August 2007 issue of *Foreign Affairs*.

Konstantin Kosachev

“Creating new missiles and launchers is really impossible to do so that no one would notice.”

-- Russian MP **Konstantin Kosachev**, arguing that Iran could not clandestinely develop missiles capable of striking Europe.

Pete Visclosky

“New activities within the nuclear weapons program are not supported pending the establishment of a clear policy and plan for our strategic deterrent, while all efforts required to maintain the current stockpile of nuclear weapons as safe and reliable are continued.”

-- US Representative and Chair of the House Energy and Water subcommittee, **Pete Visclosky**, explaining why his committee zeroed the budget of the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program.

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