

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

British Petroleum, Imagination and Nuclear Catastrophe

by David Krieger

Before the catastrophic British Petroleum oil gush in the Gulf of Mexico, there were environmentalists who warned that offshore drilling was fraught with risk – risk of exactly the type of environmental damage that is occurring. They were mocked by people who chanted slogans such as “Drill, baby, drill.” Now it is clear that the “Drill, baby, drill” crowd was foolish and greedy. The economic wellbeing of people in and around the Gulf coast has been badly damaged and, for some, destroyed altogether. Aquatic and estuary life, in the Gulf and beyond, has fallen victim to an environmental disaster that was foreseeable with a modicum of vision and imagination.

Albert Einstein reached the conclusion that “Imagination is more important than knowledge.” He said that “knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand.” Let us try applying our imaginations to nuclear weapons and nuclear war.

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

Nuclear Deterrence Scam Blocking Progress to a Safer World

by Commander Robert Green

The nuclear weapon states’ blocking of any serious moves towards honoring their obligation in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to get rid of their nuclear arsenals is driven by their uncritical acceptance of nuclear deterrence. Yet my carefully considered conclusion is that nuclear deterrence is a huge confidence trick - an outrageous scam cooked up fifty years ago by the US military industrial monster created by the Manhattan Project and now dominating US politics. Look at how President Barack Obama's vision for a nuclear weapon free world, raising global expectations in his Prague speech in April last year, was quickly contradicted by his caveat that “as long as these weapons exist, we will maintain a safe, secure and effective arsenal to deter any adversary, and guarantee that defense to our allies...”

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

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

US and Japan Reaffirm Nuclear Pact

The United States and Japan reaffirmed their stance that a 1969 bilateral agreement no longer permits the United States to field nuclear weapons at its Okinawa military base in the event of a crisis. Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada added that Japan would continue to stand by its self-imposed nonnuclear principles that bar the nation from producing, hosting or possessing nuclear weapons.

“Japan, US Reaffirm Validity of Okinawa Nukes Accord,” *Global Security Newswire*, June 18, 2010.

Nuclear Disarmament

US Conference of Mayors Calls for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

The US Conference of Mayors, a body made up of the mayors of every US city with a population over 30,000, unanimously passed a strongly-worded resolution on June 14 calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The statement reads in part, “[We] call on President Obama to work with the leaders of the other nuclear weapon states to implement the UN Secretary-General’s Five Point Proposal for Nuclear Disarmament forthwith, so that a Nuclear Weapons Convention...can be agreed upon and implemented by the year 2020.”

To read the US Conference of Mayors’ full statement on nuclear disarmament, [click here](#).

Nuclear Proliferation

China Bends International Rules to Sell Reactors to Pakistan

China has agreed to sell two nuclear reactors to Pakistan. Under the Nuclear Suppliers Group’s (NSG) guidelines, countries other than China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States (the five recognized nuclear weapon states) are not eligible to receive nuclear exports from NSG members unless they agree to inspections known as full-scope safeguards. Pakistan currently does not open all of its nuclear facilities to international inspections.

The US government “has reiterated to the Chinese government that the United States expects Beijing to cooperate with Pakistan in ways consistent with Chinese nonproliferation obligations.” Given that the US has signed a major nuclear deal with India – like Pakistan, a nonsignatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) – the move smacks of hypocrisy. The US pushed the IAEA into conceding to country-specific safeguards for India’s reactors, then lobbied for country-specific concessions for India from the NSG. As a result, lucrative nuclear contracts are being signed by India and countries like France, Russia and the UK. As such, when experts cite the violation of the NPT’s international guidelines by the Pakistan-China civilian nuclear deal, the IAEA and NSG concessions to India give this posturing little credibility.

Horner, Daniel, “China, Pakistan Set Reactor Deal,” *Arms Control Association*, June 2010.

Myanmar May Have a Nuclear Program

According to photographs and documents smuggled out of the country by a former army officer, the military junta that rules Myanmar is covertly obtaining equipment to build a nuclear arms program. A study carried out by an independent nuclear expert and produced by the opposition group Democratic Voice of Burma found that the country has years to go before building a warhead. It reported with “high confidence,” however, that said technology was purely intended for nuclear weapons. The Burmese defector also reported efforts such as uranium mining and research on lasers used for the enrichment of uranium

A Burmese scholar noted that the junta might aspire to copy North Korea's tactic of pursuing nuclear weapons to increase bargaining power with other nations. Previously acquired documents indicated that North Korea was aiding Myanmar in excavation work to build several underground structures and to develop missiles that could travel as far as 1,860 miles.

"Defector's Evidence Indicates Myanmar Has Nuke Program," *Global Security Newswire*, June 4, 2010.

Nuclear Labs

Plans for New Kansas City Nuclear Plant Move Forward

On June 14th, the US government signed a deal with CenterPoint Zimmer LLC to build a 1.5 million square foot plant in Kansas City, MO. The plant would replace the Bannister Federal Complex that has been in operation since World War II, and produce non-nuclear parts for the country's strategic arsenal.

The Kansas City government is actively seeking to subsidize this new federal nuclear weapons production plant with \$815 million in municipal bonds outside of NNSA's annual budget. The new plant's selected 180-acre site is now mostly used for soybean farming. However, the Kansas City government declared that area "blighted" so that it could use bond authority under Missouri state law designed to fight urban blight to give NNSA a new bomb plant. Taxpayers will pay an estimated \$4.5 billion over 20 years for the new Kansas City Plant, which the City will own until private developers pay the bonds back through a lease-to-purchase scheme backed up by a virtually certain revenue stream from the federal government.*

"Plan Finalized for New Kansas City Nuclear Site," *Global Security Newswire*, June 15, 2010.

*[Click here](#) for more information on the Kansas City Plant.

Nuclear Testing

US Tests Nuclear-Capable Missiles

At the time of going to press, the United States had tested five nuclear-capable missiles in the month of June, with one additional test scheduled for June 30.

The US Navy fired four Trident 2 D-5 missiles from the *USS Maryland*, and the US Air Force launched a Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile from Vandenberg Air Force base. The Air Force is scheduled to launch another Minuteman III on June 30.

David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, said, "Coming only a few weeks after the conclusion of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, US missile testing continues to be provocative and will undermine the progress on preventing nuclear proliferation that was achieved at the conference."

Tsunoda, Laura, "Vandenberg Launches Nuke-Capable Missile," *The Independent*, June 16, 2010.

Wayman, Rick, "Testing 1,2,3 (4,5...)," *Waging Peace Today*, June 16, 2010.

Russia to Strengthen Nuclear Testing Capabilities

At a June 10th meeting with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, atomic energy chief Sergei Kiriyenko advocated improvement of Russia's nuclear test program. He told Putin that such a move would ensure that Russia's strategic deterrent would remain viable without breaching the nation's adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Putin reported that, after close study, he had approved the initiative.

Meanwhile, Russian Tu-160 Blackjack strategic bombers conducted a longest-ever patrol flight of 23 hours, breaking the previous record of 21 hours. The Blackjack is capable of carrying nuclear and non-nuclear armaments.

“Russia to Strengthen Nuclear Testing Capacity,” *Global Security Newswire*, June 11, 2010.

Nuclear Energy and Waste

Australian Union Bans Nuclear Work

The Australian Electrical Trades Union (ETU) has banned its members from working in any part of the nuclear fuel cycle, including uranium mines and nuclear power stations. ETU state secretary Peter Simpson has released a statement saying, “We are sending a clear message to the industry and the wider community that vested interests in the uranium and nuclear industries are trying to hoodwink us about this dangerous product and industry.”

This is particularly significant as Australia has about 20 per cent of the world's known uranium deposits and the largest known deposits of high-grade uranium ore. The ETU expects other unions to follow its lead and join its campaign against the uranium and nuclear industries.

“Uranium Is the New Asbestos: Union Ban on Nuclear Work,” *Brisbane Times*, May 31, 2010.

Nature Preserve on Uranium Enrichment Site

In 2008, the Fernald nature preserve opened. With seven miles of hiking trails and a handsome visitors center, it has attracted more than 17,000 tourists so far. Fernald is not just any preserve - it used to be the site of the factory where uranium was processed for nuclear bombs. From 1951 to 1989 the Fernald Feed Materials Production Center produced nearly 70% of all uranium used in America's nuclear weapons.

It has taken the US Department of Energy \$4.4 billion and 17 years so far to clean up the contamination left behind in this slice of Ohio farmland. Unseen by visitors is the continuing cleanup of the giant Miami aquifer underneath Fernald, which was contaminated by leaking uranium years ago.

Creager, Ellen, “Once Notorious Uranium Waste Site in Fernald, Ohio, Beckons Tourists,” *Free Press*, June 13, 2010.

War and Peace

Israel Stations Nuclear Subs Near Iran

Three Israeli submarines – Dolphin, Tekuma and Leviathan – are to be deployed near the Iranian coastline in the Persian Gulf. Each submarine is German-built, equipped with nuclear cruise missiles and commanded by a colonel capable of launching such missiles.

An Israeli navy officer confirmed that “the 1,500km range of the submarines’ cruise missiles can reach any target in Iran.” The deployment is intended primarily as a deterrent, but the submarines could be used if Iran continues its program to produce a nuclear bomb. The Iranian military seems equally ready to act; in apparent response to Israeli activity, an Iranian admiral said, “Anyone who wishes to do an evil act in the Persian Gulf will receive a forceful response from us.”

Mahnaimi, Uzi, “Israel Stations Nuclear Missile Subs Off Iran,” *The Times*, May 30, 2010.

Iraq War

US Opposes Effort to Include Aggression as a Crime

Under the Obama administration, the United States has developed an increasingly close relationship with the International Criminal Court in The Hague. However, the administration has strongly resisted the ICC’s recent efforts to include aggression as a crime.

At the ICC’s first review conference, which was held at the beginning of June in Kampala, Ugandan delegates decided to expand the international court’s purview to include the crime of aggression. One of the US’s primary concerns with this expansion was the potential impact it might have on US military operations abroad.

However, State Department legal adviser Harold Koh reports that the US was able to negotiate the wording of the “aggression” statute so that US forces would not be adversely affected. Critics say that the nation’s failure to prevent “aggression’s” canonization as an international crime reveals the limits of President Obama’s multilateralist vision. Supporters, on the other hand, laud the limit as a sign of positive engagement, a welcome change from American exceptionalism.

LaFranchi, Howard, “US Opposes ICC Bid to Make Aggression a Crime Under International Law,” *Christian Science Monitor*, June 15, 2010.

Resources

ICAN Report on the NPT Review Conference

A new report from the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) provides a day-by-day analysis of the NPT Review Conference, with a focus on the growing support for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, efforts aimed at delegitimizing nuclear weapons and bringing humanitarianism into the disarmament debate. ICAN notes that while nuclear-weapons states claim that they are fulfilling their legally binding obligation to disarm, such claims seem tenuous in light of the fact that there are 23,000 nuclear arms in the world 40 years after the inception of the NPT. They further observe that the popularly adopted

incremental approach to disarmament has not even satisfactorily curtailed nuclear proliferation. The report describes the practice of applying different nuclear standards to different states as “Nuclear Apartheid,” and urges immediate action. It reads, “Pursuing a convention would fundamentally alter the discriminatory status quo of nuclear ‘haves’ and ‘have nots,’ by establishing a universal ban on nuclear weapons for all.”

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

2010 Global Peace Index

The Institute for Economics and Peace has released the Global Peace Index for 2010. The report examines two broad themes of peace: the relationship between peace and economic wealth and a fact-based analysis of the conditions and causes of peace. The overwhelming conclusion is that peaceful societies have some of the best social and economic indicators.

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

Foundation Activities

Waging Peace Today: New NAPF Blog

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation’s blog *Waging Peace Today* is now publishing multiple articles each week written by NAPF President David Krieger, Director of Programs Rick Wayman, Peace Leadership Director Paul Chappell and intern Candice DeNardi.

[Click here](#) to read the blog and subscribe.

Sadako Peace Day Commemoration: August 6

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation’s annual Sadako Peace Day commemoration will be held on August 6 at 6:00 pm at La Casa de Maria (800 El Bosque Road) in Santa Barbara, California. If you live in the area, please plan to attend in person.

We are making final plans to do a live stream of the event so that people around the world can take part. As soon as the final details are available, we will send out an announcement via email.

For more information on the event, [click here](#).

NAPF Internship Program

Four full-time interns have joined the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation this summer. Candice DeNardi (University of Pittsburgh), Jasmine Heiss (University of Chicago), Athena Valere (Nova Southeastern University) and Adrianna Wolaver (University of Georgia) are working on many projects, including research and writing for our [Nuclear Files](#) website, building the Foundation’s [blog](#), organizing events and much more.

The Foundation hosts interns during the summer and throughout the school year. For more information on the NAPF internship program, [click here](#).

Quotes

“Our team is dedicated to ensuring a safe, secure and effective **combat-ready** ICBM force.”

-- **Col. Carl DeKemper**, the 576th FLTS commander, commenting on the June 16 Minuteman III nuclear-capable missile test conducted at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

“It has been quite a nuclear spring...we may run out of days for a summer ratification [of the New START agreement].”

-- US Undersecretary of State **Ellen Tauscher**, expressing doubt that the US Senate will ratify the New START agreement before the summer recess.

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