

# THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

## Issue #168 - July 2011

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## Perspectives

## **An Open Letter to Graduates**

by David Krieger

Dear Graduates,

Having received a college degree, you are among the 6.7 percent of the world's most educated elite. If your education has been a good one, you are likely to have more questions than answers. If your education has been mediocre, you are likely to think you have more answers than questions.

Did you have a chance in college to ponder these questions: What does it mean to be human? Why are we here on Earth? What are the greatest goals one can pursue in life? What are the keys to a happy and fulfilled life? If you didn't, it's not too late.

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

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## **The Anti-Nuclear Mountain Is Being Scaled**

by Douglas Roche

A three-week global speaking tour has convinced me that the world is moving into a new stage in the long quest to eliminate nuclear weapons. Weakened government ideology in support of nuclear weapons is now colliding with chronic deficits and other economic realities that make them unaffordable.

I found this a consistent theme in meetings with senior government officials in China, India, Russia, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Belgium and the United Kingdom. In the discussions surrounding my lectures to university students, think tanks and civil society groups, it became clear to me that the intellectual case for nuclear deterrence is crumbling. Even in NATO headquarters in Brussels, where my arguments for nuclear disarmament in past visits were greeted by the derisory comment, "mission impossible," the response this time could be characterized as "mission maybe."

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

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## **Ending Nuclear Evil**

by Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Eliminating nuclear weapons is the democratic wish of the world's people. Yet no nuclear-armed country currently appears to be preparing for a future without these terrifying devices. In fact, all are squandering billions of dollars on modernization of their nuclear forces, making a mockery of United Nations disarmament pledges. If we allow this madness to continue, the eventual use of these instruments of terror seems all but inevitable.

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

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## **US Nuclear Weapons Policy**

### **Life Extension Program Will Lead to New Nuclear Weapon**

The \$4 billion life extension program (LEP) for the B61 bomb is one of many modernization plans for the upcoming years approved by President Obama. According to Hans Kristensen of the Federation of American Scientists, "The B61 is among seven types of nuclear weapons remaining in the U.S. stockpile of more than 5,000 bombs. The version of the B61 that currently has the higher explosive force, or yield, isn't deployed in

Europe, so the refurbished weapon with that level of effect would amount to a new capability."

While the LEPs are supposed to ensure the reliability and effectiveness of the US nuclear arsenal, skeptics worry that they will undermine Obama's goal of working with Russia towards a world without nuclear weapons. Although the National Nuclear Security Administration insists that Life Extension Programs are only used to maintain the current nuclear stockpile, it has become clear that the result of "maintenance" is in some cases an entirely new type of destructive bomb.

"Nuclear Bomb Refurbishment May Alarm Russia, Imperil Obama Plan," *Bloomberg*, June 15, 2011.

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## Nuclear Disarmament

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### US Conference of Mayors Votes Against War and Nuclear Weapons

In a huge victory for the peace community, the US Conference of Mayors voted to adopt two resolutions that call for a drawdown of troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and the abolition of nuclear weapons. In addition, the resolutions call for the reprioritization of defense spending.

Karen Dolan, a fellow for the Institute for Policy Studies, recalled that the mayors "are responsive to the needs of the people in a way in which Congress and the president have not been."

Russell, James, "US Mayors Call for End to Wars and Nuclear Weapons," *Truthout*, June 21, 2011.

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### Ban Ki-moon Wins Second Term as UN Secretary-General

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has been re-elected to serve a second five-year term. His second term will begin on January 1, 2012 and run until the end of 2016. Mr. Ban has been an outspoken advocate of the need for the abolition of nuclear weapons. He introduced a five-point plan for nuclear disarmament in 2009.

"Ban Ki-moon Wins Second Term as UN Secretary-General," *BBC News*, June 21, 2011.

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## Nuclear Proliferation

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### India and Pakistan Attempt to Increase Trust

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir and Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao have agreed to explore new trust-promoting steps regarding each country's conventional and nuclear arsenals. The countries currently provide advance warning of ballistic missile launches and once a year swap lists of each side's atomic installations that are not to be attacked in the event of a new outbreak of hostilities.

"Negative thinking exists on both sides so there are chances that either one of them could misread or miscalculate the other's movement and begin assembling and loading nuclear weapons," Pakistani security expert Hassan Askari Rizvi said.

"India, Pakistan Aim to Reduce Nuke Worries," *Global Security Newswire*, June 27, 2011.

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### Saudi Arabia Will Develop Nuclear Weapons if Iran Does

Prince Turki al-Faisal, a senior Saudi diplomat and member of the ruling royal family, told NATO officials

that, if Iran develops a nuclear weapon, it "would compel Saudi Arabia...to pursue policies which could lead to untold and possibly dramatic consequences."

An unnamed senior Saudi official was more explicit when asked about the prince's comments. He said, "We cannot live in a situation where Iran has nuclear weapons and we don't. It's as simple as that. If Iran develops a nuclear weapon, that will be unacceptable to us and we will have to follow suit."

Burke, Jason, "Riyadh Will Build Nuclear Weapons if Iran Gets Them, Saudi Prince Warns," *The Guardian*, June 29, 2011.

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## Nuclear Insanity

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### Weather Extremes Wreak Havoc at US Nuclear Facilities

**Los Alamos National Laboratory:** A mandatory evacuation was ordered for Los Alamos, NM after a huge wildfire broke out in late June. The lab, home of the Manhattan Project and still a major component of the US nuclear weapons complex, was still closed as this report was finalized.

**Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Complex:** A tornado touched down in Oak Ridge, TN near the west entrance to the Complex on June 22.

**Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant:** Flood water surrounds many buildings at the Fort Calhoun nuclear power plant in Omaha, NE. The Missouri River is predicted to rise to 33 feet above flood stage – only six feet below the level that critical buildings at the plant were designed to handle.

**Minot, ND:** The Souris River spilled over levees and dikes, causing concerns that two Minuteman III nuclear missile silos would be in the flood's path. Water levels exceeded those of the historic 1969 flood.

"Thousands Flee Los Alamos as Fire Rages Near Nuke Lab," *International Business Times*, June 28, 2011.

"Tornado Confirmed in Roane County," *News Sentinel*, June 24, 2011.

"Minot, North Dakota Residents Flee and Nuclear Silos Protected as Historic Flood Waters Rise," *ABC News*, June 23, 2011.

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## Nuclear Testing

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### US Conducts Multiple Nuclear-Related Tests in June

The US Department of Defense (DoD) and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) continue to make mock warhead testing a priority. In June the United States conducted two separate missile tests for the W-80 nuclear warhead at the Utah Test and Training Range near Salt Lake City. Also in June, Vandenberg Air Force Base conducted a test launch of the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile.

According to Brig. Gen. Sandra Finan, the NNSA Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Military Application, "NNSA and DoD are committed to ensuring that all weapon systems perform as designed, and these successful tests continue to illustrate that commitment. This strong NNSA/DoD cooperation is vital as we partner in support of our national security."

"US Tests Cruise Missiles with Mock Warheads," *Global Security Newswire*, June 27, 2011.

## Nuclear Energy and Waste

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### Whistleblower Scandal at Hanford Nuclear Site

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board has just completed a safety evaluation at the Hanford Nuclear Site in Washington, and the results don't look good.

The investigation began when an employee, Dr. Tamosaitis, a whistleblower, alerted officials after being removed from his position. The evaluation found that Dr. Tamosaitis was removed as a message to other employees about pointing out costly safety issues. The report states, "As of the writing of this finding, Dr. Tamosaitis sits in a basement cubicle in Richland with no meaningful work. His isolated physical placement by contractor management and the lack of meaningful work is seen by many as a constant reminder of what management will do to an employee who raises issues that might impact budget or schedule."

Other findings include:

- Raising safety concerns at the plant is seen as adversely affecting the careers of employees;
- Any issue brought to the River Protection Employee Program would be buried and ignored;
- Management intentionally suppressed and ignored dissent from independent contractors;
- Estimates for safe release levels of radioactive material were ignored; and
- Employees who testified during the investigation were followed, tracked, and admonished for their candid responses.

As of the report's release, no action has been taken against the management at the Hanford Nuclear Site.

"Failed Safety Culture at Nuclear Waste Site," *Cryptome*, June 20, 2011.

## War and Peace

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### The Cost of War

A new study released by the Watson Institute for International Studies estimates the economic cost for US military involvement in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan will be as high as \$4.4 trillion. An article by *Politico* reports, "At a minimum, say the authors of the study, the final cost for these military engagements will be \$3.7 trillion. But the report also points out that their estimates do not include at least \$1 trillion more in interest payments and other costs that cannot yet be quantified. Indeed, the report criticized the U.S. Congress and the Pentagon for poor accounting."

While the economic cost of war is much higher than predicted, we know all too well that the human and social costs go far beyond those numbers. The Watson study puts the total of those who have died fighting these wars with and for the United States at over 31,000.

Mak, Tim, "Price of US Wars: \$4.4 Trillion?" *Politico*, June 29, 2011.

## Resources

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### Nuclear Weapons Threat Remains High

A recent study released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) shows that the world remains under a high nuclear alert. The report highlighted several key regions where the threat of

nuclear weapons is increasing, like the Middle East and North Korea. It also reveals a disconcerting outlook for disarmament efforts since all eight countries (the study leaves out North Korea) seem committed to modernizing their nuclear programs.

"The five legally recognized nuclear weapons states, as defined by the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty are either deploying new nuclear weapon systems or have announced their intention to do so." The study also indicates that "India and Pakistan are expanding their capacity to produce fissile material for military purposes."

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

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### **Nuclear Weapons and International Law**

Three articles in the current issue of the *Fordham International Law Journal* deal with nuclear weapons and their international law implications.

[Click here](#) to read "Nuclear Weapons and Compliance with International Humanitarian Law and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty" by Charles J. Moxley, Jr., John Burroughs and Jonathan Granoff.

[Click here](#) to read "Obama's Nuclear Posture Review: An Ambitious Program for Nuclear Arms Control but a Retreat from the Objective of Nuclear Disarmament" by Charles J. Moxley, Jr.

[Click here](#) to read "Taking the Law Seriously: The Imperative Need for a Nuclear Weapons Convention" by Peter Weiss.

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### **Foundation Activities**

#### **Desmond Tutu Visits NAPF: Photos and Video**

On May 14, 2011, Archbishop Desmond Tutu came to Santa Barbara to support the work of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. Archbishop Tutu, a recipient of the Foundation's Distinguished Peace Leadership Award, has served on the NAPF Advisory Council since 1990.

Speaking about the NAPF, Archbishop Tutu said, "The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has a vision for a better world. I endorse their work and encourage those who are complacent to make a lifelong commitment and to join the winning side."

[Click here](#) for more information on Archbishop Tutu's visit, including a video interview and photos.

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#### **De-Alerting Seminar in Geneva**

On June 24, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation held a seminar in Geneva for invited diplomats and civil society leaders on "The Importance of Lowering the Operational Readiness Status of Nuclear Weapons Systems" at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. The seminar encouraged delegates to the Conference on Disarmament to support efforts to de-alert nuclear arsenals. During the seminar, Steven Starr (Senior Scientist for the Physicians for Social Responsibility and Associate of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation) and Dominique Lalanne (Chair of Abolition 2000 Europe) also emphasized the connections between nuclear de-alerting and a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC).

Starr noted that both the United States and Russia each have approximately 1,000 nuclear warheads on hair-

trigger alert. He also explained that the detonation of less than 1% of existing arsenals could cause massive global famine. Moreover, he criticized the French, UK, and the US's view that "the current level of readiness of nuclear weapons systems does not increase the risk of the unintentional or accidental use." [Click here](#) to view Steven Starr's presentation.

Lalanne then stated that progress on de-alerting and NWC negotiations would in effect, decrease dependency on nuclear weapons. Lalanne also argued that the Nuclear Weapon States must commit to No Launch Before Detonation (NLBD) policies instead of maintaining their current nuclear postures. [Click here](#) to read the paper that Dominique Lalanne presented at the seminar.

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### **NAPF Peace Leadership Director Wins Book Awards**

Paul Chappell, director of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Peace Leadership Program, has received four significant 2011 book awards for the new and profound ideas in his book [\*The End of War: How Waging Peace Can Save Humanity, Our Planet and Our Future\*](#).

The awards are:

- Peacemaker of the Year, Gold Medal Winner, Outstanding Books Category, Independent Publisher Book Awards;
- Benjamin Franklin Award for Independent Publishing, Winner in the Current Events/Military Category, Independent Book Publishers Association;
- Silver Medal Winner, Category: Current Events/Foreign Affairs/Military, Independent Publisher Book Awards; and
- Finalist, the Eric Hoffer Award.

David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, said, "Paul's book is highly deserving of the awards it has received. He has thought deeply about war and peace and has an important and uplifting message for young people, as well as elders, that peace is possible and wars can be ended in our time. At the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, we are very proud of Paul's outstanding work."

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### **NAPF Special Event Videos Now Available**

Videos from three recent Nuclear Age Peace Foundation events are now available.

The first video is from the Foundation's 27th Annual Evening for Peace, featuring Prof. Glenn Paige, founder of the Global Center for Nonkilling, and Rev. James Lawson, a nonviolence advocate and mentor to Martin Luther King, Jr. [Click here](#) to watch the video online.

The second video is the 10th Annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future, delivered by Commander Robert Green (Royal Navy, ret.). The title of Commander Green's lecture is "Breaking Free from Nuclear Deterrence." The video will be available online shortly. [Click here](#) to read a transcript of Commander Green's lecture.

To obtain a copy of either of these events on DVD, please contact the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at (805)965-3443.

NAPF Intern Cara Gregoire interviewed many individuals on June 25, Nuclear Weapons Abolition Day, to get their opinions on nuclear weapons and prospects for nuclear disarmament. [Click here](#) to watch her video.

## Quotes

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"If we are going to manage costs, I believe everything must be on the table."

-- **Leon Panetta**, speaking at his confirmation hearing to become US Secretary of Defense.

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"Minuteman III test launches demonstrate our nation's ICBM capability in a very visible way, deterring potential adversaries while reassuring allies."

-- Air Force Col. **David Bliesner**, revealing that the real reason for testing nuclear weapon delivery systems is to intimidate other countries.

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"High-alert nuclear postures create a universal fear of impending nuclear incineration, and thereby prevent any fundamental change in the doctrine of nuclear deterrence. As long as nuclear forces remain on high-alert, the elimination of nuclear weapons remains impossible and accidental nuclear war remains possible."

-- **Dominique Lalanne**, in a paper prepared for the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's seminar on nuclear de-alerting in Geneva on June 24, 2011.

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## Editorial Team

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