

THE SUNflower

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Perspective

REMEMBERING HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

By David Krieger, 1 August 2003

At 1:45 a.m. on August 6, 1945, a US B-29 bomber, named Enola Gay, took off from Tinian Island in the Mariana Islands. It carried the world's second atomic bomb, the first having been detonated three weeks earlier at a US test site in Alamogordo, New Mexico. The Enola Gay carried one atomic bomb, with an enriched uranium core. The bomb had been named "Little Boy." It had an explosive force of some 12,500 tons of TNT. At 8:15 a.m. that morning, as the citizens of Hiroshima were beginning their day, the Enola Gay released its horrific cargo, which fell for 43 seconds before detonating at 580 meters above Shima Hospital near the center of the city.

As a result of the blast, heat and ensuing fires, the city of Hiroshima was leveled and some 90,000 people in it perished that day. The world's second test of a nuclear weapon demonstrated conclusively the awesome power of nuclear weapons for killing and maiming. Schools were destroyed and their students and teachers slaughtered. Hospitals with their patients and medical staffs were obliterated. The bombing of Hiroshima was an act of massive

destruction of a civilian population, the destruction of an entire city with a single bomb. Harry Truman, president of the United States, upon being notified, said, in egregiously poor judgment, "This is the greatest thing in history."

With the passage of time, those who actually experienced the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have become far fewer in number. Although their own memories of the trauma to themselves and their cities may remain vivid, their stories are unknown by large portions of the world's population. The message of the survivors has been simple, clear and consistent: "Never Again!" At the Memorial Cenotaph in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park is this inscription: "Let all souls here rest in peace; for we shall not repeat the evil." The "we" in the inscription refers to all of us and to each of us.

Yet, the fate of the world, and particularly the fate of humanity, may hang on how we remember Hiroshima and Nagasaki. If we remember the bombings of these cities as just another point in human history, along with many other important points, we may well lack the political will to deal effectively with the challenges that nuclear weapons pose to humanity. If, on the other hand, we remember these bombings as a turning point in human history, a time at which peace became an imperative, we may still find the political will to save ourselves from the fate that befell the inhabitants of these two cities.

For full text go to: http://wagingpeace.org/articles/03.08/0801krieger_hiroshima%2Bnagasaki.htm

Take Action

TELL THE US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY YOU OPPOSE NUCLEAR BOMB FACTORY

Send a comment to the US Department of Energy by Tuesday, August 5 opposing the "Modern Pit Facility" (MPF), which would be capable of yearly production of up to 500 plutonium "pits," or cores, for both old and new weapons designs. Key reasons to oppose the facility include:

- Construction of the facility, at an estimated cost of \$2-4 billion, would result in significant nuclear waste streams, and would result in one cancer death for every 4.4 years of "normal" operation.

-The US already has approximately 15,000 pits in strategic reserve that appear to be stable and long-lived, and there is no apparent need for further pit production.

-The facility would undermine arms control agreements such as the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), which will be formally reviewed in 2005. The NPT obligates signatory nations such as the US to get rid of nuclear weapons, and plans for the MPF only affirm that the US has no intention to disarm.

Send your email to Jay Rose, MPF EIS Document Manager at: James.Rose@nnsa.doe.gov

Proliferation

US HOUSE CUTS FUNDS FOR NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS

On 19 July, the US House of Representatives approved an appropriation bill that cut more than \$50 million sought by the White House to develop new nuclear weapons. The cuts included: eliminating funds for developing lower yield tactical weapons and for speeding up the process for underground nuclear tests. Cuts also included significant reductions to spending on earth-penetrating modifications and the elimination of over half of the funds requested for studies to choose a location for a new plutonium pit factory. The cuts were not mirrored in the version of the bill approved by the Senate subcommittee.

Sources: *New York Times*, 19 & 17 July 2003; *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 17 July 2003

PUTIN WARNS THAT IF OTHERS TEST NUKES, RUSSIA MAY FOLLOW

On 31 July, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that Russia would continue to refrain from nuclear tests only if other nuclear powers do not conduct them either. Putin's comment appeared to imply a warning to the Bush administration, which is currently seeking funds from Congress to reduce the time needed to restart full-scale underground testing.

Source: *Moscow Times*, 1 August 2003

NORTH KOREA AGREES TO TALKS AS TENSIONS RISE

North Korea has reportedly agreed to six-nation negotiations to begin shortly in Beijing, though the exact date has not been identified. On 13 July, North Korea reported that it had reprocessed all 8,000 of its spent nuclear fuel rods,

producing enough plutonium to build approximately six nuclear bombs. South Korean intelligence information supports the claim that some of the plutonium has indeed been reprocessed, and Chinese intelligence suggests North Korea reprocessed enough material to make at least one bomb. According to the *New York Times*, American and Asian officials have said that strong evidence suggests that North Korea has built a second, secret plant for producing weapons-grade plutonium. North Korea also reportedly threatened to conduct a nuclear test if the United States did not respond positively to negotiation proposals.

Rep. Chang Young-dal, South Korea's National Assembly's Defense Committee Chief, reportedly stated last July that North Korea does not have the ability to compress a nuclear warhead to a size that could be loaded onto a missile. Rep. Chang also stressed the importance of ensuring North Korea's survival without nuclear weapons and urging it to return to the international community.

In late July, John Bolton, US Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, launched a bitter personal attack on the North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il, stirring unease around East Asia as foreign diplomats were attempting to lure him to the negotiating table. Bolton issued a veiled threat to Kim Jong-Il in an *Asian Wall Street Journal* editorial, which stated of Kim Jong-Il's nuclear weapons program, "The choice is his to make -- but whichever path he does choose -- the United States and its allies are prepared. Let us hope he makes the right choice." In response, a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman called Bolton a "scum and human bloodsucker."

Sources: *Los Angeles Times*, 16, 20 & 26 July 2003; *International Herald Tribune*, 14 July 2003; *New York Times*, 20 July 2003; *USA Today*, 21 July 2003; *Korea Herald*, 28 July 2003; *Wall Street Journal*, 10 & 18 July 2003; *Asian Wall Street Journal*, 1 August 2003; *London Times*, 1 August 2003

BUSH AND BLAIR FACE INCREASED HEAT OVER IRAQ INTELLIGENCE

US President George Bush and UK Prime Minister Tony Blair continue to take political heat about their use of intelligence information as no significant arsenals or facilities of weapons of mass destruction turn up in Iraq.

David Kelly, former UN weapons inspector and UK government scientist, was found dead from apparent suicide after months of being at the center of the debate around allegations that Prime Minister Blair pumped up Iraq intelligence. The BBC used Kelly as its main, anonymous source for an explosive report that the Blair government had hyped the case for war in Iraq by giving undue prominence to intelligence suggesting that Saddam Hussein could deploy weapons within 45 minutes. The controversy has turned into a full-blown conflict between Downing Street and the BBC that may affect the future of the Broadcasting

Company, which is reliant upon government funding.

The White House has continued to fail to explain why President Bush cited faulty intelligence information in his State of the Union Address, alleging that Niger attempted to sell uranium. Though the administration is spinning the critiques as inconsequential, relating to only 16 words of a speech, it has provided little explanation for why none of the alleged chemical, biological and nuclear weapons stockpiles and programs have been found. The killings of Uday and Qusay Hussien, sons of Saddam Hussein, have somewhat shifted attention from the Iraq weapons controversy.

Sources: *Washington Post*, 20 & 30 July 2003; *New York Times*, 24 & 15 July 2003; *BBC*, 20 July 2003; *Reuters*, 28 July 2003

US TO HOLD MAJOR NUCLEAR POLICY MEETING

On 7 August, the US Strategic Command (StratCom) will meet in Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska to discuss America's nuclear weapons capabilities, including the so-called Stockpile Stewardship Program which is involved in efforts to design new nuclear weapons. Those attending the conference will include officials from the Defense Department, the Department of Energy, StratCom, senior military officers, civilians from the National Nuclear Administration, the State Department and the National Security Agency and representatives from the nation's nuclear laboratories, Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore. Public protests are expected from citizens who disagree with the rising role of nuclear weapons in US security strategy.

Sources: *Omaha World-Herald*, 31 July 2003; *Aviation Week & Space Technology*, 21 July 2003

Disarmament

US REFUSES RENEWAL OF NONPROLIFERATION DEAL WITH RUSSIA

On 22 July, the US Department of Energy threatened to cancel two cooperative nuclear security programs with Russia, the plutonium disposition program and the Nuclear Cities Initiatives, if liability issues are not resolved.

Under the plutonium disposition program, Russia and the United States agreed to turn weapons-grade plutonium from dismantled nuclear warheads into mixed-oxide fuel to be used in nuclear power plants. If the Russian part of the MOX project stops due to lack of US funds, it would likely stall the US MOX plan, which is being implemented, in part, by Duke Energy in South Carolina. (In July, Duke Energy released notice of its plans to test the MOX in its nuclear power plants, plans which are being opposed by members of the local community due to health and environmental risks.)

The Nuclear Cities Initiative, a program to employ Russian nuclear weapons scientists in the private sector, is also being threatened, though the program would seem to carry little liability risk. The United States has been involved in renegotiation of the relevant agreements for the past three years, and the programs will last only until the end of this year unless an agreement is reached.

Sources: *The Charlotte Observer*, 26 July 2003; *Contra Costa Times*, 23 July 2003; *USA Today*, 28 July 2003

UKRAINE CHASTISES US FOR WITHHOLDING NONPROLIFERATION FUNDS

On July 15, Ukraine President Leonid Kuchma accused the United States of reneging on promises to provide \$30 million to dispose of nuclear rocket fuel left over from dismantled Ukrainian ballistic missiles inherited from the Soviet Union. Ukraine has destroyed hundreds of missiles under a 1993 agreement, and Kuchma is claiming that the US has reneged on its side of the bargain to dispose of the rocket fuel. According to the US Embassy, the funds were suspended in May due to technical concerns, not to a lack of commitment.

Source: *International Herald Tribune*, 16 July 2003

HUNDREDS RALLY IN SUPPORT OF NUNS PROTESTING NUCLEAR MISSILES

Hundreds of demonstrators gathered at three missile sites in southwestern Nebraska on 26 July to demonstrate support for three nuns who were sentenced to prison for their protest at a missile silo. Jackie Hudson, 68, Ardeth Platte, 66, and Carol Gilbert, 55, were convicted in April of obstructing the national defense and damaging government property for cutting a fence, walking onto a Minuteman III silo site, and symbolically attempting to "disarm" the missiles. A federal judge Friday sentenced Hudson to 2 ½ years, Platte to almost 3 ½ years and Gilbert to 2 years and 9 months. All three were given 3 years of supervised probation.

Source: *Chicago Tribune*, 27 July 2003

Missiles & Missile Defense

CHINA AND RUSSIA CALL FOR SPACE ARMS BAN

China and Russia urged for talks to begin on a treaty to ban weapons in space during a session of the United Nations-backed Conference on Disarmament in Geneva on

30 July. Two years after tabling proposals for a treaty to ban weapons in space, an effort known as PAROS (Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space), China and Russia renewed their commitment to the treaty process, citing growing "Star Wars" dangers, a clear reference to US missile defense efforts which are planned to include space-based elements. Russia has accused the United States of having obstructed discussion on the new space accord in the past.

Source: Reuters, 31 July 2003

MISSILE DEFENSE SUFFERS CRITIQUE AND SPACE-BASED DELAYS

In early July, the US Missile Defense Agency (MDA) announced that it no longer plans to launch developmental space-based missile interceptors by 2005, and instead plans to continue basic research on such interceptors until at least 2008.

Following this announcement, on 16 July, the American Physical Society (APS) released a report heavily critiquing the technical feasibility of the boost-phase component of the current missile defense plan. The report fell just short of stating that such programs are wasting money on technologies that are at least decades away from being feasible. Though the APS study did not address the midcourse approaches to missile defense, the MDA has recognized shortcomings in the midcourse approach and the need, therefore, to supplement the midcourse system with boost-phase weapons. The APS critique is likely to complicate the administration's efforts to drum up congressional funding for the boost-phase systems. Northrup Grumman, the major contractor for the Airborne Laser boost-phase weapon system, has questioned the accuracy of the APS report.

Sources: Space News, 7 & 21 July 2003; Abilene (TX) Reporter-News, 24 July 2003; Washington Post 16 July 2003; Defense Daily, 1 August 2003

NEW IRANIAN BALLISTIC MISSILE GOES INTO SERVICE

On 20 July, the Iranian Shahab-3 ballistic missile officially went into service after an inaugural ceremony. The missile, which has a range of 1,300 km and the ability to carry a one-ton warhead, is reportedly based on North Korea's No Dong-1 missile.

Source: London Financial Times, 21 July 2003

US DEFENSE DEPARTMENT CITES INCREASE IN CHINESE MISSILES

On 30 July, the US Defense Department released its annual assessment of the Chinese military, which stated that China has deployed about 450 short-range ballistic missiles with conventional warheads capable of striking Taiwan, and is expected to expand that force by 75 missiles a year for the next few years. China is also developing an advanced medium range version of the missile and is reportedly building new intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Sources: Washington Times, 31 July & 1 August 2003; New York Times, 31 July 2003

International law

CHARGES AGAINST BLAIR GO TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

On 28 July, the Athens Bar Association filed 22 charges with the International Criminal Court (ICC) against UK Prime Minister Tony Blair and Senior UK Cabinet Members, accusing them of committing crimes against humanity during the invasion of Iraq. Though the cases are unlikely to reach the Court, there are concerns that if they do, the Court may suffer severe political backlash.

In related news, the United States has recently announced that it has signed new immunity pact agreements, through which countries agree not to hand over US citizens to the ICC, with Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Djibouti, Mauritius and Zambia.

Sources: Los Angeles Times, 30 July 2003; London Daily Telegraph, 29 July 2003

LOWER HOUSE REVISES BELGIUM WAR CRIMES LAW

On 29 July, Belgium's lower house of Parliament approved a revision of a war crimes law, removing provisions that were used to file complaints against Bush, Blair and Gen. Tommy Franks over the Iraq War. The revision, which followed threats voiced by US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to remove NATO Headquarters from Brussels, limits jurisdiction to cases involving Belgian citizens or residents as victims or suspects, and ensures full immunity for world leaders and officials who visit Belgium.

Source: Los Angeles Times, 30 July 2003

COUNTRIES MEET TO DISCUSS WEAPONS INTERDICTIONS

Eleven countries met in Brisbane, Australia 9-10 July 2003, as part of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), an effort to prevent the transit and transfer of weapons of mass destruction. Members of PSI include: the United States, Australia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom. The members agreed to hold joint interdiction exercises and, in the final statement, agreed that the PSI group must work with key coastal or transit countries, presumably so that those states would allow for or engage in interdictions in their territory. There is concern that some of the interdiction efforts being discussed by the PSI may violate long-standing international legal norms securing the freedom of the high seas and the right to navigation and transit.

Source: Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Treat, 10 July 2003, Brisbane

Nuclear Energy & Waste

SOUTH AFRICAN PEBBLE BED REACTOR TO BE RE-EVALUATED

The South African Cape Chamber of Commerce has called for a re-evaluation of the pebble bed modular reactor (PBMR) proposed by Eskom, in light of the discovery of a vast gas field off the West Coast. Cape Times quoted the Chamber as saying, "If we end up making the fuel and building the reactors, we might have to re-import the spent fuel for processing. This would result in a huge increase in the amount of radioactive waste which would have to be stored and managed for a very long time in an uncertain future." The project was being planned with the US company Exelon and British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL).

Source: Cape Times, 22 July 2003

US SENATE STRUGGLES WITH FLAWED ENERGY BILL

The Republican majority in the US Senate struggled to pass an energy bill (the Energy Policy Act, S. 14) during the last week of July, which would authorize loan guarantees for up to six new nuclear power plants, \$425 million for the Yucca Mountain waste dump project and \$20 billion for construction of a gas pipeline from Alaska. Environmental activists have strongly opposed the bill, which may be postponed until after the summer recess. Even if the bill is passed, large discrepancies between the Senate and House versions will pose a serious challenge to reaching final agreement on the bill.

Sources: Medill News Service, 14 July 2003; Washington Post Staff Writer, 28 July 2003

COURT RULES CHENEY MUST GIVE UP ENERGY PAPERS

On 8 July, a US federal appeals court rejected US Vice President Dick Cheney's request that it block a lawsuit requiring Cheney to produce papers from his controversial secretive energy task force. The appeals court's decision requires the Bush administration to comply with an earlier order from a US District Court to produce the energy task force documents or give a detailed explanation of what was withheld and why. Cheney, who was the chief executive of energy and construction company Halliburton Co. from 1995-2000, led the energy task force in which senior executives of the energy industry, including former Enron Corp., participated. Judicial Watch and Sierra Club are the two non-governmental groups bringing the private lawsuit.

Source: Reuters, 8 July 2003

RUSSIA DECIDES AGAINST NOVAYA ZEMLYA WASTE DUMP

On 26 July, Russian Atomic Energy Minister Alexander Rumyantsev announced that the Federal Nuclear and Radiation Safety Inspectorate has decided not to construct a nuclear waste storage facility on the island of Novaya Zemlya in the Arctic Ocean. The construction of the storage facility, which had been approved by the Atomic Energy Ministry in June 2002, was canceled due to potential risk of future rising temperatures in the region's climate. Rising temperatures could lead to melting permafrost and consequential leaks of radioactive material. The ministry is instead investigating building a storage facility in a remote part of the Kola Peninsula.

Source: Rosbalt News Agency, 28 July 2003

JAPANESE REACTOR WITH HIGH PROLIFERATION RISKS REACTIVATED

On 2 July 2003, the Joyo experimental breeder reactor in Oarai, Ibaraki Prefecture Japan was reactivated and attained criticality for the first time since the plant's operations were suspended in June 2000. Breeder reactors pose unique proliferation risks. According to a 1998 report by Selig S. Harrison, director of the Asia Program at the Center for International Policy, if Japan decided to pursue a weapons program, the most attractive option would be separating the high-purity plutonium from the breeder blankets of a fast breeder reactor such as Joyo, because the resulting "Supergrade" plutonium is especially suited for the miniaturization of warheads.

Sources: *Japan Times*, 2 July 2003; "Missile Capabilities in Northeast Asia: Japan, South Korea and North Korea," July 1998

Nuclear Insanity

CHIRAC DEFENDS NUCLEAR TESTING IN SOUTH PACIFIC

French President Jacques Chirac defended decades of nuclear testing in the South Pacific during his first visit to Polynesia since the last such tests were conducted in 1995. Chirac said that the tests helped establish France as a world power. The French conducted hundreds of nuclear blasts in French Polynesia from 1958-1995, causing geographical degradation and imposing serious health risks to the inhabitants of the South Pacific. The 1995 tests conducted in the Moruroa and Fangataufa Atolls met fierce international opposition, leading to the eventual closure of the test sites. In response to Chirac's statement, New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark stated, "When France brought its atmospheric testing to the South Pacific the standard response in New Zealand was to say, 'If it is so safe, why don't you do it at home? I guess we still feel that way.'"

Sources: Agence France-Presse, 26 July 2003; Los Angeles Times, 27 July 2003

Foundation News

YOUTH OUTREACH COORDINATOR SPEAKS AT DC CONFERENCE

Michael Coffey, Youth Outreach Coordinator for the Nuclear

Age Peace Foundation, traveled to Washington D.C. to speak at a Student Pugwash USA conference entitled: Nuclear Weapons: Science and Policy Educational Seminar, 13-17 July. Michael spoke on the University of California's (UC) management of the US nuclear weapons laboratories, engaging Dr. Paul White, a Los Alamos Laboratory scientist, in a discussion about the appropriateness of UC's involvement in weapons of mass destruction research and development. Other speakers at the conference included Nobel Laureate Sir Joseph Rotblatt and Princeton University's Zia Mian. Several young Foundation members also participated in the conference, including Mike Cox, a UCLA student working on the UC Nuclear Free Campaign.

To read Michael Coffey's comments, go to: http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/03.07/0714coffey_pugwash.htm

FOUNDATION TO SPONSOR SADAKO PEACE DAY EVENT

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will observe the Ninth Annual Sadako Peace Day at the Sadako Peace Garden at La Casa de Maria in Montecito on 6 August. The annual commemoration coincides with the 58th anniversary of the 1945 bombing of Hiroshima and serves to remind us of the destruction and pain brought about by nuclear weapons. The DOE Modern Pit Facility Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available at: <http://mpfeis.com/DEISTOC.htm>

SUPPORT THE NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

Support the work of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation by making a tax-deductible contribution at <https://www.ndic.com/wagingpeace/supportus.htm>

Resources

- The Renewable Switch: Environment-Friendly Energy Available Now to South Coast
By Tam Hunt, Bud Laurent, Peter Jeschke, and Kristen Morrison, 20 July 2003 is available at: http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/03.07/0720hunt_renewable.htm
- The Center on Terrorism and Public Safety at John Jay College, CUNY has announced a national competition for a fellowship program designed specifically for junior faculty in American universities to develop courses in nuclear and other ultimate threats to existence. The stipends of \$2,500 are intended to help motivate five young scholars from a variety of universities and disciplines to develop an innovative course in some aspect of ultimate threat. For more information, please contact Charles B. Strozier (cstrozier@jjay.cuny.edu) or Michael Flynn (mflynn@jjay.cuny.edu).

- "Lift-Off For Space Weapons? Implications of the Department of Defense's 2004 Budget Request for Space Weaponization," Jeffrey Lewis, Graduate Research Fellow, Center for International and Security Studies at Maryland (CISSM), 21 July 2003 is available at:

<http://www.puaf.umd.edu/CISSM/Publications/AMCS/Lewis%20Space%20Weapons.pdf>

- Visit the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's updated Nuclear Files website. Visitors can now easily navigate the site, take a journey through the Nuclear Age and learn about key issues. The site also contains a section for educators with sample course syllabi incorporating lessons from nuclear history into the classroom. Visit the redesigned and user-friendly Nuclear Files at <http://www.nuclearfiles.org>

- Visit the ever-evolving website of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at <http://www.wagingpeace.org>. We encourage you to check in frequently at the New Items link on the Home page, the Activities Calendar, the Take Action page and all the other great sections on the site.

Quotable

"I think this is the worst government the US has ever had in its more than 200 years of history. It has engaged in extraordinarily irresponsible policies not only in foreign and economic but also in social and environmental policy. This is not normal government policy. Now is the time for people to engage in civil disobedience."

-Das Akerlof, Nobel Prize Winner in Economics, 1 August 2003

"The only safe counter weapon to this new power is the firm decision of mankind that it shall be used for constructive purposes only. This discovery must spell the end of war. We have been paying an ever-increasing price for indulging ourselves in this uncivilized way of settling our difficulties. We can no longer indulge in the slaughter of our young men. The price will be too high and will be paid not just by young men, but by whole populations. In the past we have given lip service to the desire for peace. Now we must meet the test of really working to achieve something basically new in the world."

-Eleanor Roosevelt, 8 August 1945

"The use of the atomic bomb, with its indiscriminate killing of women and children, revolts my soul."

-Herbert Hoover

Editors

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