

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

Sixty-Two Years after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Bombings

by David Krieger

August 6 and 9, 2007 mark respectively the 62nd anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

On August 6, 1945, Hiroshima was destroyed by a single atomic weapon with a core of enriched uranium. The blast, heat, fire and radiation killed 90,000 people almost immediately and 145,000 by the end of 1945.

To read the rest of the article, please visit: http://wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/08/04_krieger_sixty-two_years_after.htm.

Hiroshima Peace Declaration Marking the 62nd Anniversary of Atomic Bombing

By Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima

The government of Japan, the world's only A-bombed nation, is duty-bound to humbly learn the philosophy of the hibakusha along with the facts of the atomic bombings and to spread this knowledge through the world. At the same time, to abide by international law and fulfill its good-faith obligation to press for nuclear weapons abolition, the Japanese government should take pride in and protect, as is, the Peace Constitution, while clearly saying "No," to obsolete and mistaken US policies. We further demand, on behalf of the hibakusha whose average age now exceeds 74, improved and appropriate assistance, to be extended also to those living overseas or exposed in "black rain areas."

Sixty-two years after the atomic bombing, we offer today our heartfelt prayers for the peaceful repose of all its victims and of Iccho Itoh, the mayor of Nagasaki shot down on his way toward nuclear weapons abolition. Let us pledge here and now to take all actions required to bequeath to future generations a nuclear-weapon-free world.

To read the rest of the statement, please visit:
<http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/declaration/English/index.html>.

Historical Perspectives

Japanese Defense Minister Resigns after Controversial Remarks

On July 3rd, Japanese Defense Minister Fumio Kyuma resigned after making controversial remarks that were interpreted as justifying the US atomic bombings of Japan.

The controversy began during a speech in which Kyuma said that the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were unavoidable because they were aimed at preventing the Soviet Union from entering the war against Japan. "I understand the bombings brought the war to an end. I think it was something that couldn't be helped," stated Kyuma during his speech.

After his remarks, Kyuma faced increasing opposition and calls to resign. The Mayor of Nagasaki, Tomihisa Taue, visited with him in order to protest the comments.

Speaking to reporters after his resignation, Kyuma said, "People do not seem to understand the intentions behind the remarks, so I told Prime Minister Abe that I need to take responsibility, and he accepted it."

"Kyuma Resigns Over A-bomb Gaffe. Defense Chief Becomes Latest Cabinet Casualty," *Kyodo News*, 3 July 2007.

The Decision to Risk the Future: Harry Truman, the Atomic Bomb and the Apocalyptic

Narrative

by Peter J. Kuznick

In his personal narrative *Atomic Quest*, Nobel Prize-winning physicist Arthur Holly Compton, who directed atomic research at the University of Chicago's Metallurgical Laboratory during the Second World War, tells of receiving an urgent visit from J. Robert Oppenheimer while vacationing in Michigan during the summer of 1942. Oppenheimer and the brain trust he assembled had just calculated the possibility that an atomic explosion could ignite all the hydrogen in the oceans or the nitrogen in the atmosphere. If such a possibility existed, Compton concluded, "these bombs must never be made." As Compton said, "Better to accept the slavery of the Nazis than to run a chance of drawing the final curtain on mankind." [1] Certainly, any reasonable human being could be expected to respond similarly.

To read more, please visit: http://wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/07/23_decision_to_risk.htm.

Nuclear Insanity

US Investigators Obtain Nuclear Material with Ease

According to a Government Accounting Office (GAO) report, GAO investigators set up a fake firm and were able to obtain a license from the NRC in 28 days. The NRC approved the license after only a few faxes and phone calls.

"From the date of application to the issuance of the license, the entire process lasted 28 days," the GAO said. "GAO investigators essentially obtained a valid materials license from the NRC without ever leaving their desks."

The report also said that the agents were able to make fake copies of the license, change the wording to remove restriction on how much they were allowed to buy and then ordered enough radiological material to build a dirty bomb.

The senior Republican on the panel that requested the investigation, Senator Norm Coleman of Minnesota, stated, "The NRC's first visit to the facilities could be up to one year after the license was issued. That's like handing out a gun license and waiting a year to do the background check."

Allen, JoAnne, "Fake Firm Gets Nuclear License in US Govt Sting," *Reuters*, 12 July 2007.

Dozens of Safety Lapses Discovered with Scottish Nuclear Convoy

Nuclear bomb convoys passing through Scotland have had 67 safety lapses over the past seven years.

The Scottish Ministry of Defense released a list of dozens of mechanical faults and equipment failures since 2000. Some of these items include fuel leaks, broken valves and several instances of engine and brake overheating.

In February 2003, the clutch of a vehicle carrying bombs became inoperative and in January 2005, a fuse box started smoking when a heated windshield was turned on. There have also been several tire punctures and false alarms.

The convoys that carry Trident missiles travel by road six times a year between the Atomic Weapons Establishment in Berkshire and the Royal Naval Armaments Depot in Coulport.

David Mackenzie, a spokesman for Nukewatch, which monitors the convoys, accused the government of

putting people's lives at risk. "Transporting plutonium and high explosive in the same truck shows an incredible disregard for public safety," he said.

An accident could have "catastrophic consequences," according to John Ainslie, coordinator of the Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. "These latest disclosures reveal there have been an alarming number of incidents involving the transport of weapons of mass destruction across Britain."

Edwards, Rob, "Nuclear Convoys in 67 Scottish Safety Incidents," *Sunday Herald*, 14 July 2007.

Missile Defense

Russian President Proposes Placing Missile Shield Radar in Russia

On July 2nd, Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed placing a new radar facility in Russia for the European-based US missile defense shield.

This new proposal came during a two-day meeting in Maine between President Bush and President Putin. The meeting was designed to ease the increasingly frayed relations between the US and Russia.

Russia has adamantly opposed US plans to deploy anti-missile facilities in Poland and the Czech Republic, claiming that they are a threat to Russian security. In the past few months, President Putin has threatened to withdraw from a conventional-forces treaty and implied that Bush's international policies are similar to those of Nazi Germany.

Addressing the proposal, the Russian president stated, "There would be no need to place any more facilities in Europe. If Bush accepts, it would transform US-Russian ties. The relations between our two countries would be raised to an entirely new level. Gradually, our relations would become those of a strategic partnership nature."

Although the newest proposal caught Bush and his advisors off-guard, Putin had previously suggested using a radar facility in Azerbaijan instead of building a facility in the Czech Republic. US officials argued that the Azerbaijan facility would be too antiquated to target incoming missiles. Responding to US officials at this most recent meeting, Putin stated that Russia would modernize the Azerbaijan facility or build an entirely new facility in southern Russia if needed.

President Bush called Putin's proposal "very constructive and bold," but would not stop plans to install systems in Poland and the Czech Republic.

The Bush administration's plan for a missile defense shield also faced opposition in Congress this month when a committee cut the \$139 million request for a missile interceptor system in Poland.

Baker, Peter, "Putin Proposes Broader Cooperation on Missile Defense," *Washington Post*, 3 July 2007.

Nuclear Energy and Waste

Japanese Nuclear Reactor Damaged in Earthquake

Data released regarding the Japanese Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant shows that it was not built to withstand a powerful earthquake like the one that hit Niigata, Japan.

The plant was damaged when an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.8 occurred 16 kilometers from the facility. According to the information released, the nuclear plant was only designed to withstand an

earthquake with a magnitude of 6.5. Additionally, the fault line where the earthquake occurred extends beneath the nuclear plant, raising serious safety concerns.

Although the Japanese Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency said that radioactive iodine had been detected in the filter of an exhaust pipe of one of the seven reactors at the complex, the Agency says there is no danger of any impact on the environment or possible damage to nuclear fuel.

According to the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS), the damage to the reactor was more severe than reported. According to a NIRS report, 400 barrels of radioactive waste were knocked over and lost their lids, contaminating structures within the plant. Three-hundred-seventeen gallons of radioactive water spilled in the Sea of Japan from an irradiated fuel pool unit at the plant. Also, one of the reactors has been venting radioactive steam into the air since the earthquake began. There is currently no information on the potential effect of the radiation being released.

“Temblor Topped Reactor Design Premise,” *Japan Times*, 20 July 2007.

Resources

Report on Earthquake Damage to Japan’s Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Plant

This is a a brief report from Nuclear Information and Resource Service on damage to Japan’s Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power facility caused by last month’s earthquake.

To read the report, visit: <http://www.nirs.org/international/asia/reportonearthquakedamage71907.pdf>.

Too Hot to Handle? The Future of Civil Nuclear Power

by Frank Barnaby and James Kemp

This briefing paper argues that a worldwide nuclear renaissance is beyond the capacity of the nuclear industry to deliver and would stretch to breaking point the capacity of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to monitor and safeguard civil nuclear power. If this happened, the authors argue that governments would need to again review energy policy - minus civil nuclear power - further delaying progress towards a sustainable and secure energy policy, and possibly causing the UK and other countries to miss the window of opportunity to tackle climate change. This briefing paper is one of a series of reports and fact sheets published as part of Oxford Research Group’s Secure Energy Project.

To read the briefing paper, visit:

http://www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk/publications/briefing_papers/pdf/toohottohandle.pdf.

Action Kit on Radiation Standards

Current radiation standards focus solely on cancer risk and do not consider risk for other diseases or reproductive harm, such as birth defects or early miscarriage. Although based on a man, the current standard fails men too, because it doesn’t take into account their capacity to become fathers. The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research has designed an Action Kit for use in local communities. The Action Kit provides resources anyone can use to educate friends, neighbors, colleagues, classmates and community members about this important issue. It includes a downloadable, printable handbill, talking points and a sign-up sheet for use in collecting signatures for a letter to the White House in support of this important campaign.

Download the kit at: <http://www.ieer.org/campaign/actionkit.html>.

Administration Justifications for the Reliable Replacement Warhead Program

The US Secretaries of State, Defense and Energy have released a statement in an attempt to justify, to Congress and the public, the increasingly controversial Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program. While the Secretaries argue that the implementation of the RRW program is necessary in order to maintain a credible deterrent, critics have questioned the program's necessity on scientific, fiscal, and moral grounds.

To read the report, visit: <http://www.nsa.doe.gov/docs/factsheets/2007/NA-07-FS-04.pdf>.

Foundation Activities

13th Annual Sadako Peace Day

On August 9th the Foundation will host its 13th Annual Sadako Peace Day. The day will commemorate the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as well as remember Sadako, a young Hiroshima victim 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 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Sadako Peace Garden, La Casa de Maria, 800 El Bosque Road, Montecito, CA. For more information, please call the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at (805) 965-3443 or visit our website at: www.wagingpeace.org.

We want you to be part of this ceremony for peace, no matter where you live. Please send us your messages and prayers for peace. We will list all messages on our website and select several to read at our Peace Day ceremony.

To send a message, please visit: http://wagingpeace.org/menu/programs/public-events/sadako-peace-day/2007/sadako_msg_add.php.

Peace Boat Concert for Peace

Peace Boat's Third Annual "People Build Peace" concert will be held in New York City on August 9th. The Foundation is joining with ten other civil society organizations to co-sponsor this event. The concert coincides with the arrival of Peace Boat's ship to New York City, and will bring the rhythms of the world to the United Nations. Peace Boat is a chartered passenger ship that travels the world on peace voyages. The ship creates a neutral, mobile space and enables people to engage across borders in dialogue and mutual cooperation at sea and in the ports that it visits. The concert's featured acts will include Asiko, Yucca Seca Band, Pete Seeger and the Walkabout Clearwater Chorus, Absolute Bhangra, and The Blue Vipers. There will also be Japanese modern dance, arts projects, speakers and more.

The "People Building Peace" concert will be held Thursday, August 9th, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza (East 47th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues across from the United Nations). For more information, please contact Peace Boat at: (212) 687-7214 or info@peaceboat-us.org.

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

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is pleased to announce its sixth Think Outside the Bomb conference, which will take place 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 Think Outside the Bomb network's efforts toward achieving 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.

Toda/NAPF Conference: "The Challenge of Abolishing Nuclear Weapons"

From September 7th-9th an international conference cosponsored by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and the Toda Institute will convene in San Francisco. The conference will bring together 25 leading figures in the nuclear weapons abolition movement from around the world. Participants will come together to discuss strategies for moving forward in achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. The conference papers will be published in book-form following the conference.

Peter, Paul & Mary -- Evening for Peace

For more than four decades, Peter, Paul & Mary have sounded the call for peace with songs as potent as they are sweet. The trio has been an inspiration for millions of people, creating close musical harmony even as they work for greater social harmony in the world. We're excited to let you know that on the evening of September 17th, in Santa Barbara, the trio will receive the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's 2007 Distinguished Peace Leadership Award. Past recipients include the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Jacques Cousteau, Helen Caldicott and Walter Cronkite. This year we are doing something new: we are creating an intimate evening with Peter, Paul & Mary as the centerpiece. In providing the trio the space to share their own inspiring experience, and through the incorporation of powerful archival film footage, we hope to animate an era, similar to our own, during which people were weary of war and were actively involved in the pursuit of peace. By choosing to support our Evening for Peace, you will be helping the Foundation in its efforts to create a world free of nuclear weapons and to develop new peace leaders among our youth.

Please visit this website if you would like to be put on our invitation list for this special Evening for Peace: <http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/programs/public-events/evening-for-peace/2007/index.htm>.

Quotes

"We've been getting a lot of signals from Iran that they want to talk. Pay less attention to the rantings of [Iranian President] Ahmadinejad and pay more attention to the comments of [Iran's top nuclear negotiator] Larijani.

-- Vice President for National Security and International Policy at the Center for American Progress, **Joseph Cirincione**, talking about the future of Iranian nuclear policy.

"Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT): While supporting the continued voluntary moratorium on testing, the Administration strongly opposes a provision of Section 3122 that calls for the ratification of

the CTBT.”

-- Statement of Bush administration policy, explicitly opposing a comprehensive nuclear test-ban.

“Brazil could rank among those few nations in the world with a command of uranium enrichment technology, and I think we will be more highly valued as a nation -- as the power we wish to be.”

-- President of Brazil, **Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva**, announcing intentions to relaunch the country’s nuclear program and promising to complete a third atomic power plant and a nuclear submarine.

“The President cannot re-write laws during a closed-door negotiation session with a foreign government. Though some of us disagreed during last year’s debate over nuclear cooperation with India, all of us are intent on defending the prerogatives of Congress and reinforcing that the law must be followed without exceptions.”

-- Massachusetts Congressman, **Edward Markey**, responding to concerns that the current nuclear agreement between India and the United States may not be consistent with US law.

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