

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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- Perspectives
 - Message for Hiroshima Day 2010 by David Krieger
 - Does Deterrence Really Deter? by Martin Hellman
- US Nuclear Weapons Policy
 - Program Finds Peaceful Jobs for Weapons Scientists
 - US Ambassador to Attend Hiroshima Ceremony
- Nuclear Disarmament
 - Non-Nuclear Nations Seek Bigger Say via Alliance
- Nuclear Proliferation
 - Resolution Allowing Israeli Strikes on Iran Introduced by House Republicans
 - Doubts Surface on North Korea's Role in Ship Sinking
 - UK to Extend Civil Nuclear Ties with India
 - A Loophole for Myanmar's Nukes
- Missile Defense
 - US to Cover Cost of Israeli Antimissile System
- Nuclear Energy and Waste
 - Safety Fears Raised at French Reactor
 - Tribes: Nuclear Waste Can't Be Stored at Hanford
- Iraq War
 - Toxic Legacy of US Assault on Fallujah 'Worse than Hiroshima'
- Resources
 - New Bilingual Book of Peace Poetry by David Krieger
 - Our Taxes Are Off to War
- Foundation Activities
 - NAPF Holds Countdown to Zero Screenings in Los Angeles
 - Sadako Peace Day: August 6 in Santa Barbara
 - NAPF Advisor Receives Honorary Hiroshima Citizenship

- Santa Barbara Reception Opportunity with Peter and Paul
- Quotes

Perspectives

Message for Hiroshima Day 2010

by David Krieger

The Nuclear Age has entered its 65th year. The first test of a nuclear device took place on July 16, 1945 at the Alamogordo Test Range in New Mexico's Jornada del Muerto Desert. The Spanish name of this desert means "Journey of Death," a fitting name for the beginning point of the Nuclear Age. Just three weeks after the test, the United States destroyed the city of Hiroshima with a nuclear weapon, followed by the destruction of Nagasaki three days later. By the end of 1945, the Journey of Death had claimed more than 200,000 human lives and left many other victims injured and suffering.

Over the past 65 years, the Journey of Death has continued to claim victims. Not from the use of nuclear weapons in war, but from the radiation released in testing nuclear weapons (posturing). We can be thankful that we have not had a nuclear war in the past 65 years, but we must not be complacent. Our relative good fortune in the past is not a guarantee that nuclear weapons will not be used in the future. Over the years, the power of nuclear weapons has increased dramatically. They have become capable of ending civilization and complex life on the planet. What could possibly justify this risk?

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

Does Deterrence Really Deter?

by Martin Hellman

Calling nuclear deterrence by that name was a stroke of marketing genius for selling it to the public. Unfortunately, that stroke of genius was also a potential death sentence for us all by hiding another, more ominous aspect of this strategy.

To deter someone is "to discourage him from doing something, typically by instilling doubt or fear of the consequences." Hence, deterrence implies that it will work, that it will deter adversaries from calling our nuclear bluff.

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

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

Program Finds Peaceful Jobs for Weapons Scientists

Founded in 2006, the US-based Scientist Engagement and Redirection Program was established as a means to support weapons scientists, engineers and technicians left unfunded and unemployed after the Soviet Union's fall. Mark Whitney, the acting assistant deputy administrator for nonproliferation and international security at the US National Nuclear Security Administration, explains that the "major concern was ensuring that this expertise was not diverted." Rather than work on weapons in other nations, therefore, scientists can channel

their expertise toward peaceful research and commercial activities.

To date, US funding tallies up to \$400 million, accompanied by an additional \$300 million from other governments and the private sector. Of the estimated 17,300 personnel involved in the last 16 years, a small fraction has come from countries such as Iraq and Libya. Parney Albright, the principal associate director of global security at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, calls for an expansion of scientific redirection programs to include additional nations. Says Parney, "This is a very inexpensive way to get a lot benefit in terms of building trust and relationships with the people who have skills that can be applied to good or ill."

"Program Finds Peaceful Jobs For Weapons Scientists," *Global Security Newswire*, July 26, 2010.

US Ambassador to Attend Hiroshima Ceremony

The Obama administration said Wednesday it is sending its ambassador in Tokyo to a ceremony next week marking the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. "Ambassador John Roos will represent the United States at the August 6 Hiroshima Peace Memorial, to express respect for all of the victims of World War II," State Department spokesman Philip Crowley told reporters. He said Roos is the first ambassador to attend the event, but could not immediately confirm if he is the highest-ranking US official or the only US official so far to join the ceremony.

Roos is expected to lay a floral wreath at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial on August 6, the 65th anniversary of the World War II atomic bombing. More than 140,000 people were killed instantly in Hiroshima or died in the days and weeks after the US attack. Three days later a US plane dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki, killing more than 70,000 people.

"US Envoy Ambassador to Attend Hiroshima Ceremony," *Agence France Presse*, July 28, 2010.

Nuclear Disarmament

Non-Nuclear Nations Seek Bigger Say via Alliance

After close cooperation on nuclear issues, Japan and Australia are working to form an alliance of non-nuclear states. The five nuclear states acknowledged under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- have generally taken command of disarmament and nonproliferation issues. The partner nations hope that this new alliance will help reduce the role of nuclear weapons in military strategy and deter the use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states. A Japanese newspaper reports that the alliance is specifically envisioned as a means to curb North Korea and Iran's nuclear ambitions and to encourage India, Pakistan and Israel to join the NPT. Japan and Australia hope to hold the inaugural meeting at a UN General Assembly meeting this September with 11 other nations. A Japanese Foreign Ministry opined, "Cooperation among nations sharing common ideals will be the most effective way to promote discussions on nuclear disarmament." The nations to be called on include Canada, Germany and South Korea.

"Non-Nuclear Nations Seek Bigger Say via Alliance," *The Yomiuri Shimbun*, July 22, 2010.

Nuclear Proliferation

Resolution Allowing Israeli Strikes on Iran Introduced by House Republicans

Despite the warnings of US military leaders, nearly one third of House Republicans have signed onto a resolution that would endorse Israel's bombing of Iran. The bill's lead sponsor is Texas Republican Louie Gohmert. Fellow neoconservative John Bolton has also attempted to garner public support for such a move in a recent op-ed published by the *Wall Street Journal*. He argues that supporters ought to frame this issue in terms of Israel's right to self-defense. Neither Gohmert nor Bolton addressed the startlingly murky details of such a "right." However, the bill explicitly endorses an Israeli military strike on Iran if "no other peaceful solution can be found within reasonable time," yet fails to mention what such a solution might look like, or what time period would be considered "reasonable."

In response, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, General David Petraeus, The Brookings Institution's Saban Center, and an Oxford Research Group all agree – another war in the Middle East would be disastrous and do nothing to curb Iran's nuclear aspirations.

Abdi, Jamal, "Resolution Green-Lighting Israeli Strikes on Iran Introduced by House Republicans," *Common Dreams*, July 24, 2010.

Doubts Surface on North Korea's Role in Ship Sinking

The sinking of the South Korean *Cheonan* is being called the "most notorious shipwreck in recent Korean history." The 1,200-ton warship sank about 12 miles off the North Korean coast on the night of March 26. Yonhap, the official South Korean news agency, initially reported that the ship had been struck by a torpedo, later revising their story to say that the *Cheonan* sank after being grounded on a reef. A South Korean lead joint investigative panel later returned to the original version of events, pointing fingers at Pyongyang. Despite US praise for the panel, challenges to their findings are coming from within South Korea itself.

Critics point out that the impoverished North Korean regime is unlikely to have waged such a successful attack on South Korea – a superior military power – and then evaded detection. Investigative journalist Shin Sang-chul adds, "I couldn't find the slightest sign of an explosion, the sailors drowned to death. Their bodies were clean. We didn't even find dead fish in the sea." Shin was removed from the investigative panel after challenging the official version of events. A propeller fragment that supposedly incriminates the North Koreans has also aroused suspicion. A South Korean born US scholar noted that the salvaged piece had more corrosion than would be expected, but that the mark linking it to the North was surprisingly clear. The controversy has embarrassed the United States and made China and Russia reticent to punish Pyongyang for the attack. Late this month, the US began joint military exercises with South Korea in a show of unity against the North's aggression. A few days prior, North Korea warned that such maneuvers would be met with "a physical response."

Demick, Barbara and John M. Glionna, "Doubts Surface on North Korea's Role in Ship Sinking," *Los Angeles Times*, July 23, 2010.

UK to Extend Civil Nuclear Ties with India

Despite security concerns, UK Prime Minister David Cameron has agreed to allow the export of nuclear

technology and components to India. Lifting the ban will allow British companies such as Rolls Royce and Serco to strike deals worth millions of pounds. Rolls Royce is a leading supplier of nuclear reactor components and has also powered the UK's fleet of nuclear submarines. Many officials are concerned that India has yet to separate its military and civil nuclear programs. Cameron countered, "There are obviously security sensitivities we are conscious of, as are the Indians, but within those constraints we want to really push ahead with civil nuclear co-operation. That would be a sector in which we want to make progress." He did not respond to concerns that such a move would flout the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Defense firm BAE is also expected to sign a deal worth \$650 million to supply India with 57 Hawk jets, and Westland helicopters also hopes to capitalize on the newly lifted ban. This move is also likely to strain the UK's relationship with Pakistan.

Barker, Alex and Amy Kazmin, "UK to Extend Civil Nuclear Ties with India," *Financial Times*, July 28, 2010.

A Loophole for Myanmar's Nukes

The *Asia Times* reports that Myanmar has the potential to develop a nuclear program without the oversight of the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Myanmar, also known as Burma, signed the Small Quantities Protocol three years after acceding to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Under the treaty, Myanmar is allowed up to 10 tons of natural uranium and one kilogram (2.2 lbs) of plutonium without reporting possession of these materials to the IAEA. Robert Kelly, former director of the IAEA, has urged Myanmar to become party to the Additional Protocol of the NPT. Such a move would give the IAEA more powers to inspect nuclear activity in the country. After reviewing evidence pertaining to chemical processing equipment to convert uranium compounds, Kelly reported "There is clear evidence that there is a place where steps are being taken towards building a nuclear program, but there is no sign of a weapons program yet." Myanmar has remained mum about nuclear developments at the annual sessions of the IAEA's general conference, but reports have surfaced about collaboration with Russian, North Korean, and Pakistani nuclear scientists.

Macan-Markar, Marwaan, "A Loophole for Myanmar's Nukes," *Asia Times*, July 23, 2010.

Missile Defense

US to Cover Cost of Israeli Antimissile System

The *Jerusalem Post* reports that the United States has pledged to underwrite expenses for the creation of an Israeli missile defense system. Although Washington affirmed its intent to maintain funding for the project last year, there was some concern that the Obama administration's desire to reduce defense spending would mean the end of the two decade old project.

On July 27, however, the Israeli Defense Ministry breathed a sigh of relief as US Missile Defense Agency head Lt. Gen. Patrick O'Reilly inked a deal with Brig. Gen. Ofir Shoham, head of the Israeli Defense Ministry's MAFAT Research and Development Directorate. The shield defense system in question is an Arrow 3 missile shield, a weapon likely to require \$100 million in development expenses. It would be able to shoot down enemy missiles at greater distances and higher altitudes than Israel's current Arrow missile shield, and would enter operations in 2012-2013.

"US to Cover Cost of Israeli Antimissile System," *Global Security Newswire*, July 26, 2010.

Nuclear Energy and Waste

Safety Fears Raised at French Reactor

State-controlled French nuclear engineering company Areva is currently battling anti-nuclear activists on France's Normandy coast. The activists are working to halt construction of a European Pressurized Reactor (EPR) plant in Flamanville, citing concerns that proposed changes to the plant's cladding design would present "a serious safety problem." Both Areva and operating partner EDF have assured the public that EPR plants represent a giant leap forward in terms of reactor design, performance and safety. Internal EDF documents leaked in March, however, raised serious concerns over the safety of the reactor core used in both plants.

Brett, Patricia, "Safety Fears Raised at French Reactor," *The New York Times*, July 27, 2010.

Tribes: Nuclear Waste Can't Be Stored at Hanford

A commission created by President Barack Obama recently visited the Hanford nuclear reservation in south-central Washington, the most contaminated nuclear site in the United States. Local advocacy groups and Yakama, Umatilla, Nez Perce and Wanapum Indian tribes urged the commission not to delay Hanford's cleanup.

For more than 25 years, proposed underground repository Yucca Mountain, which lies 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, was intended to house 77,000 tons of highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel, including Hanford's waste. Ten billion dollars of the projected \$90 billion had already been spent on the Yucca Mountain project when Obama decided to kill the plan, making good on a campaign promise. South Carolina and Washington state are suing to prevent the Yucca Mountain project from being abandoned, and a Nuclear Regulatory Commission legal panel ruled that the Energy Department doesn't have the authority to kill the project started by Congress.

Hanford was created in the 1940s as part of the top-secret Manhattan project to build the atomic bomb. "The Hanford site is not an appropriate location to take on any additional waste storage, waste disposal or waste generation missions," said Ken Niles of the Oregon Department of Energy. "We're more than 20 years into a cleanup that now looks like its going to stretch 65 or 70 years before it's all complete."

Dinenny, Shannon, "Tribes: Nuclear Waste Can't Be Stored at Hanford," *Associated Press*, July 14, 2010.

Iraq War

Toxic Legacy of US Assault on Fallujah 'Worse than Hiroshima'

Since 2005, doctors in the Iraqi city of Fallujah have reported an overwhelming number of babies born with serious birth defects, and a sharp rise in cancers. A survey of 4,800 individuals, carried out in January and February 2010 confirmed that that city had experienced a four-fold increase in cancer, and a 12-fold increase in cancer for children under 14. Additionally, Fallujah's infant mortality rate is more than four times that of neighboring Jordan's, and a staggering eight times higher than that of Kuwait, Iraq's neighbor to the South.

The types of cancer reported are “similar to that in the Hiroshima survivors who were exposed to ionizing radiation from the bomb and uranium in the fallout.” While Hiroshima survivors showed a 17-fold increase in leukemia, researchers in Fallujah found a 38-fold increase, accompanied by a 10-fold increase in female breast cancer, and significant increases in lymphoma and brain tumors. Doctors are also shocked and concerned by the speed with which various cancers are affecting the population.

Dr Chris Busby, a visiting professor at the University of Ulster and one of the authors of the survey, said that the extent of genetic damage suffered by inhabitants suggests the use of uranium in some form. Fallujah was besieged and bombarded by US Marines in April of 2004. Eight months later, the Marines stormed the city with artillery and aerial bombing. They later admitted that white phosphorous and other munitions were used in the attack. Busby said that he couldn't be sure of the type of armaments used by the Marines, but guessed that “they used a new weapon against buildings to break through walls and kill those inside.”

Cockburn, Patrick, “Toxic Legacy of US Assault on Fallujah 'Worse than Hiroshima,’” *The Independent*, July 24, 2010.

Resources

New Bilingual Book of Peace Poetry by David Krieger

A new book of poetry by NAPF President David Krieger has been published in English and Japanese. In the book, entitled *God's Tears*, Krieger reflects on the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Speaking about the new book, Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima, said, “In a few carefully crafted, poetic pages, he [Krieger] presents facts and feelings that reaffirm a profound truth: the only constructive mission of nuclear weapons lies in their total abolition.”

To download a flyer, [click here](#). To purchase the book online in the United States, [click here](#).

Our Taxes Are Off to War

More than half of US discretionary spending this year will go to the military. To put this in perspective, the military received 53% of discretionary funds from the FY2009 budget, while educational services received only 7%, and health care 5%.

This article from the *Daily Kos* has some powerful graphs that show exactly how disparate US discretionary spending is. [Click here](#) to view the article and the graphs.

Foundation Activities

NAPF Holds Countdown to Zero Screenings in Los Angeles

On July 30 and August 1, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation supported screenings of the new documentary *Countdown to Zero* in Los Angeles. With support from the Ploughshares Fund, NAPF supporters from around Southern California were able to watch the film for free during its premiere weekend.

At one sold out screening on July 30, NAPF Director of Programs Rick Wayman spoke before the movie began. He emphasized the urgency of abolishing nuclear weapons in contrast to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's recent statement that the abolition of nuclear weapons might happen "in some century" (see Quotes section below).

Staff and interns of the Foundation provided theater-goers with Action Packs with information on how they can get involved in the movement for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

NAPF President David Krieger wrote an article about the film that encourages people to take action; [click here](#) to read it.

To see a full list of cities where Countdown to Zero is playing, [click here](#).

Sadako Peace Day: August 6 in Santa Barbara

On August 6, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will host the 16th annual Sadako Peace Day commemoration at La Casa de Maria in Montecito, California.

Each year the Foundation remembers the story of Sadako Sasaki and all victims of nuclear weapons. The event features speakers, poetry, music and reflection on the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. For more information about Sadako Peace Day, [click here](#).

NAPF Advisor Receives Honorary Hiroshima Citizenship

Hon. Douglas Roche, O.C., founder and chair emeritus of Middle Powers Initiative, as well as a Foundation Advisor and recipient of the NAPF Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005, has been named a Special Honorary Citizen of Hiroshima at an international conference in Hiroshima on July 28.

In accepting this honor, Roche said, "Fellow citizens of Hiroshima: I rejoice to be with you. I share your grief and anxieties, your joys and hopes. I will carry the name Hiroshima with me wherever I go. Like you, I stand for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. I will fight for this goal as long as I live. Long live Hiroshima!"

Santa Barbara Reception Opportunity with Peter and Paul

Peter and Paul of the legendary music group Peter, Paul & Mary will be performing at the Lobero Theater in Santa Barbara on Friday, September 10. For those of you in Southern California, we encourage you to hold this date - NAPF members will have a special opportunity to purchase a limited number of concert tickets that include a backstage reception with Peter and Paul after the concert.

For more information, contact the Foundation at (805) 965-3443 or watch for email updates in the coming weeks.

Quotes

“And I am personally very grateful for everything you’ve done to move us toward our goal of a world someday, **in some century**, free of nuclear weapons, but along the way, making that world safer and safer and safer for our children and grandchildren.”

-- US Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** speaking to members of the US delegation to the New START negotiations.

“Once again, war is being paid for with a credit card while investments in our children’s future are tossed aside.”

-- US Representatives **D. Davis, Clarke, Conyers, Edwards, Filner, Grayson, Grijalva, Honda, Kucinich, Jackson, Jackson-Lee, Lee, Pingree, Polis, Stark, Waters and Woolsey** in a written statement before the July 27 vote in the House on a \$33 billion supplemental for the war in Afghanistan.

“In less than one generation, Hanford has become so contaminated that my people will be living with the contaminated consequences for the next 10,000 years or longer.”

-- **Stuart Harris**, director of the Department of Science and Engineering for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla in Oregon, speaking about the heavy radioactive contamination at the former nuclear weapons site in Hanford, Washington.

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