

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

Nuclear Weapons and the University of California

by David Krieger

Most of us would agree that the primary purpose of a university is to educate students to be compassionate and decent human beings who play a meaningful role in improving society. This is a serious challenge under

any circumstances, but particularly in the Nuclear Age when our most destructive technologies are capable of destroying civilization and eliminating the human species.

I believe that a university has a responsibility to educate not only in the classroom, but also to teach by example. A university should teach values of honesty, integrity and compassion. It should not be a tool for propaganda, nor should it send a message to its students that it is acceptable to use powerful weaponry to threaten the annihilation of whole populations. None of us would tolerate holding up genocidal behavior as a model for innocent and open minds.

To read more, visit: www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/07/26_krieger_nuc_weapons_and_UC.htm.

The Imperative of Revitalizing Nuclear Disarmament

On the 50th anniversary of the first meeting of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, a distinguished group of 25 international specialists on nuclear weapons issues convened to discuss the urgency of revitalizing nuclear disarmament in order to free the world from the ever-present threat posed by nuclear weapons. Under the auspices of the Pugwash Conferences and the Middle Powers Initiative, the participants discussed a variety of measures that need to be taken by all members of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in order to provide needed momentum toward the goal of declaring nuclear weapons illegal and eliminating them entirely.

To read more, visit: www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/08/24_imperative_of_revitalizing.htm.

Is Peace That Difficult?

by Hans Blix

At the end of the Cold War there was an opportunity for the world to create a new collective security order. In 1991, after decades of blockages in the Security Council, it authorized armed intervention to stop the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. In the same period, Russia and the United States took steps to reduce the number of deployed non-strategic nuclear weapons: the Chemical Weapons Convention was adopted in 1993, the Non-Proliferation Treaty was prolonged indefinitely after renewed commitments by nuclear weapon states to take get serious about disarmament; a Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty was negotiated and adopted in 1996; and at the review conference of the NPT in 2000, countries agreed on 13 practical steps to disarmament.

To read more, visit: www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/08/28_blix_is_peace_difficult.htm.

Historical Perspectives

The World Commemorates Hiroshima/Nagasaki

From August 6-9, commemorations took place around the world marking the 62nd anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As it has always been for the past six decades, large commemoration ceremonies took place in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. The mayors of both cities presented Peace Declarations, urging the world to work towards preventing future nuclear holocausts.

Many events were also organized across the United States. Events, which focused on remembering the deaths, included lantern floating, candlelight services and concerts. In Los Alamos, New Mexico, people gathered at the Ashley Pond for a traditional sackcloth-and-ashes vigil, and then floated lanterns.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation held its 13th annual Sadako Peace Day ceremony on August 9, with 8 year-old Abigail Pacheco giving the keynote speech. Abigail highlighted the leadership qualities of Sadako,

a young Japanese girl killed by radiation from the Hiroshima bomb. Others remembered the victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings through music, poetry and messages for peace sent from around the world.

Many groups used the anniversary as an opportunity to call for the strengthening of international law and for a nuclear-free world. In protest against a recent proposal by the US to build new nuclear weapons, approximately 100 activists blocked the gates of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Thirty activists were arrested. In Oak Ridge, Tennessee at the Y-12 National Security Complex, five activists were arrested after they chained themselves together to barricade the gates.

Some occasions simply offered people a chance to think; think about the suffering of victims of nuclear weapons; think about the growing threat of nuclear war; and think about what can be done for a safer world. Listening to survivors' stories, learning from movies and joining discussions regarding current nuclear issues are some of the methods that have been used for provoking thought. For example, on August 9, the Atomic Mirror and Cine Revolución did a screening of *White Light, Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki*, the HBO film by Steven Okazaki, in Oxnard, CA. They also invited Shigeko Sasamori, one of the survivors of the Hiroshima bombing.

Although organizations used different methods, they all shared the same goal: no more Hiroshimas/Nagasakis, and no more nuclear war. Commemorating these tragic anniversaries is important because it proves that we have learned something from history.

Source: august6.org/events

Nuclear Labs

Education and Nuclear Weapons Don't Mix

by Will Parrish

The US government's primary nuclear warhead contractor convened a public meeting at University of California, Santa Barbara in July. That contractor is the University of California's Board of Regents. This was the Regents' first formal public meeting at the Santa Barbara campus in more than nine years.

The Regents have managed the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in New Mexico and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) since each facility's inception in the mid-20th century. In the fiscal year 2005-06, the U.S. Department of Energy gave the University of California \$2.85 billion to run the nuclear weapons programs at Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore. That's more than the \$2.8 billion the university system received from the State of California for education during the same period.

To read more, visit: www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/07/19_parrish_educ_and_nuc_weapons.htm.

Missile Defense

Tensions Continue Over US Missile Defense System in Europe

President Vladimir Putin has put forth an offer of cooperation with the United States on missile defense. His statement seemed to be aimed at establishing a position ahead of the talks on the issue, which will begin in October between the defense and foreign ministers of Russia and those of the United States.

On Thursday, August 23, however, a Russian official emphasized that this offer was only valid if the United States would drop plans to deploy elements of its missile defense system in Central Europe. Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Malakhov reinforced this position in a recent statement: "A fundamental condition of the realization of our proposals is the rejection by the United States of the deployment of anti-missile defense

bases in Europe and the placement of anti-missile strike facilities in space.”

The Bush administration’s intentions to place missile defense facilities in Poland and the Czech Republic have received constant criticism from Russia. Although the US has assured that the bases in question are designed to counter potential threats from Iran, rather than weaken Russia’s nuclear deterrent, President Putin remains apprehensive and has accused the US of aggressive conduct within the international arena.

As an alternative to the US planned radar site in the Czech Republic, President Putin has proposed that the US and Russia share a Russian-leased radar station in Azerbaijan. He additionally announced that missiles for the US defense system could be deployed at sea or in other nations, such as Turkey, rather than in Poland. The US response to President Putin appeared positive; US officials relayed that the proposal indicated Moscow’s openness to cooperation and its mutual concern over missile threats.

Despite this mark of cooperation, the US and Russia continue to have strained relations. Washington has been increasingly concerned over the Kremlin’s treatment of political opponents, and, as discussion on the US missile defense system ensued, the US dismissed Russia’s call to halt the Central European system.

“Russia Talks Tough on Missile Defense,” *The Associated Press*, 23 August 2007.

Nuclear Energy and Waste

Nuclear Power + Earthquakes = Danger for Japan

An earthquake registering 6.8 on the Richter scale occurred on July 16 in Niigata, Japan. Not only did it devastate the local buildings, but it also caused serious damage at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant, the largest nuclear generating station in the world.

The Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant, operated by Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO), is located 19 kilometers (11.4 miles) away from the epicenter of the quake. Soon after the quake, a fire broke out in its electrical transformer. The following day, plant officials admitted that radioactive materials, such as cobalt-60, iodine, and chromium-51, had been leaked into the atmosphere. In addition, 315 gallons of radioactive water leaked into the Sea of Japan, and approximately 400 “low-level” nuclear waste drums were knocked over. Forty of those drums lost their lids. After observing the site, TEPCO’s president stated that it was a “mess.”

The quake was far stronger than what the plant was designed to withstand. However, as Professor Ishibashi Katsuhiko of Kobe University said, “this series of accidents cannot just be concluded as ‘unexpected.’” In August 2005, the Onegawa Plant in Miyagi was temporarily shut down after a quake registering 7.2 and in March 2007, the Shika Plant in Ishikawa was shut down after a quake measuring 6.9. Despite these previous earthquake related incidents, neither the Japanese government nor its Nuclear Safety Commission (NSC) had strengthened the guidelines for seismic nuclear plant design.

In response to local uneasiness about the radiation leaks, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Japanese Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) and the NSC conducted their own investigations. An IAEA investigation team reported on August 19 that there is no visible significant damage inside the plant.

Japan is located on several active fault lines and has had devastating earthquakes throughout its history. Many of the 55 nuclear reactors located throughout Japan are close to big cities, such as Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya. If these reactors were damaged in another big earthquake, there is real threat of a nuclear disaster.

Ishibashi, Katsuhiko, “Why Worry? Japan’s Nuclear Plants at Grave Risk from Quake Damage,” *Herald Tribune/Asahi Shinbun*, 11 August 2007.

Toshiba Sells 10% Stake in Westinghouse to Kazatomprom

On August 13, Toshiba Corp., Japan's largest producer of nuclear reactors, sold a 10% stake in the US-based power plant manufacturer and operator, Westinghouse, to Kazakhstan's state uranium-mining firm, Kazatomprom (KAP).

According to Mukhtar Dzhakhishev, the president of KAP, the stake was sold for \$514 million. The volume of uranium and nuclear fuel that KAP intends to provide, however, was not disclosed.

If the deal goes smoothly, KAP will have the opportunity to produce uranium hexafluoride, a substance utilized in the uranium enrichment process that produces nuclear fuel for nuclear weapons and reactors. Toshiba previously revealed that it desired the sale to secure stable uranium supplies from KAP.

Analysts have remarked that KAP is seeking uranium processing technology with the aim of halting its uranium ore exports to Russia. It intends to sell higher value-added products on the international market.

KAP is currently the world's third largest uranium miner and, according to the BBC, will use the Westinghouse acquisition to break into new markets, gaining a 40% share of the world's uranium market.

Toshiba stated that it plans to transfer the shares within a month, pending export-control review in Japan and the United States. The Bush administration would therefore have the right to veto the transaction but, given its close relationship with President Nursultan Nazarbayev's regime, such an act seems implausible.

The deal would transform KAP "from a uranium producer into a diversified player on the global nuclear market," according to Nucleonics Weekly. Greenpeace, the Nuclear Information and Resources Service and other groups have written to the Treasury Department's Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to oppose the sale. Their letter states that the sale would "undermine efforts to limit nuclear proliferation, and ... give sensitive nuclear technology to a brutal, repressive, and undemocratic regime." James Love, head of the Washington-based Knowledge Ecology International, maintains that Kazakhs have ties to nuclear black-market activities and there have been reports that the country's nuclear facilities, as well as nuclear material, are not secure.

Although Kazakhstan was praised for voluntarily abandoning its nuclear weapons arsenal upon gaining independence from the former Soviet Union in 1992, the sale still provokes concerns. Henry Sokolski, Executive Director of the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, argues that it "...would essentially be encouraging a government to get into the nuclear fuel-making business."

Silverstein, Ken, "As North Korea Gives Up Reactor, Kazakhstan Seeks a Nuclear Edge," *Harpers Magazine*, 17 July 2007.

Cooling Tower Collapses at Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant

On August 21, a cooling tower at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant collapsed.

Pipes and a series of screens that were designed to pump water from the Connecticut River through the tower, made of wood, fiberglass, and metal, gave way and fell to the ground. The collapse caused a ruptured 54" pipe to dump 350,000 gallons per minute of contaminated water onto the ground.

For the past two years, there have been repeated concerns raised about cooling towers at Vermont Yankee. In particular, the New England Coalition has raised concerns about the Entergy Corporation's decision to increase the plant's output capacity by 20%. Past inspections of this tower revealed cracks and other structural concerns. Since the collapse, Vermont Yankee's output has been cut by 50%.

Smallheer, Susan, "Vermont Yankee Officials are Baffled by Cooling Tower Collapse," *Rutland Herald*, 25 August 2007.

Resources

B is for Bomb; You is for YouTube

Foundation member Mary Becker has made a short film, *B is for Bomb*, which won first prize at the 2006 Cannes online competition. It provides a short history of the Nuclear Age. The film is now available to be viewed on YouTube, where you can also submit comments to the filmmakers. The film is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRvGwVkl8pA.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation also has its own YouTube site. The first video, by NAPF intern Adrienne Garcia, is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uQGv8tdwqw.

Nuclear Reactor Life Cycle Study

This study by Uwe R. Fritsche examines the greenhouse gas emissions of nuclear power from a life-cycle perspective, from mining to decommissioning. To read this report, go to: www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2006/01/00_fritsche_comparison_of_greenhouse_gas_emissions.pdf.

Globalization: Values, Responsibility and Global Justice

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has just published the 6th annual Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future, delivered by Jakob von Uexkull at the University of California at Santa Barbara in February 2007.

"We cannot rely on 'those up there' to act on our behalf, for rarely have the powerful been so confused and divided." -- Jakob von Uexkull

To read this lecture, visit www.wagingpeace.org/menu/programs/public-events/frank-kelly-lecture/6th-annual-lecture/6th_annual_lecture.pdf.

Foundation Activities

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

An international conference co-sponsored by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research will convene on September 8-9 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. Four members of the Foundation will be participating in the conference: David Krieger, Rick Wayman, Nick Roth and Alice Slater. The conference papers will be published as a book following the conference.

NAPF Evening for Peace Honoring Peter, Paul & Mary

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.

When health concerns for Mary Travers meant that all concerts had to be cancelled for the trio in September (including the one scheduled for Santa Barbara's Arlington Theater), it appeared the Evening for Peace, the Foundation's biggest event of the year, would have to be cancelled, too. But despite the cancellation of concert performances, Peter Yarrow and Noel (Paul is his stage name) Stookey are committed to attending the Foundation's event -- which will be held at the Victoria Hall Theatre in Santa Barbara.

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: www.wagingpeace.org/menu/programs/public-events/evening-for-peace/2007/index.htm.

Foundation President David Krieger's Speaking Tour in Denmark and Italy

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation President David Krieger will be lecturing in Europe in the latter part of September through early October. On September 27, Dr. Krieger will be speaking on "US Leadership for a Nuclear Weapons Free World: A Bipartisan Plea" at a symposium on *Current Dangers of Nuclear Weapons* at the Danish Parliament in Copenhagen, Denmark. On September 28, also in Copenhagen, he will present an INES Ethics Project lecture on "Nuclear Weapons and the Responsibility of Scientists." On October 3, Dr. Krieger will participate in a public debate on the *Nuclear Threat: Europe Against Nuclear Proliferation and War* sponsored by the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms at the City Theater in Campi Bisenzio, Italy. From October 4-5 he will participate in the *International Conference on Nuclear Proliferation: Historical Appraisal and Present Problems* at the University of Florence, Italy and will speak on "Nuclear Dangers and Challenges to a New Nuclear Policy."

The text of President Krieger's lectures will be available on the Foundation's website at: www.wagingpeace.org.

"Strategies for Sustainable Energy" Panel Chaired by Alice Slater

On September 26, NAPF New York Representative Alice Slater will chair a panel on "Strategies for Sustainable Energy," at the Middle Powers Initiative offices, 675 Third Avenue in New York City.

Sixth Think Outside the Bomb Conference

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Youth Empowerment Initiative wrapped up a highly successful Think Outside the Bomb conference on August 19. From August 16-19, over 100 activists from across the United States, the Marshall Islands and Puerto Rico gathered at the University of California, Santa Barbara to participate in the conference. The purpose of the conference was to cultivate awareness, dialogue and action to counter militarism and strive for nuclear abolition.

"This conference is intended to weave a tapestry of information and inspiration, to regenerate young people who have been doing this work but have experienced its frustrations and drawbacks, and to catalyze people who are relative newcomers to this kind of movement," said Will Parrish, the Foundation's Youth Empowerment Director and one of the two primary organizers of the conference. Parrish continued, "Think

Outside the Bomb is totally unique in that it situates nuclear weapons in the context of the system of militarism and oppression that is destroying our planet and communities, while giving people empowering tools to address the most serious challenges confronting us in proactive ways.”

Quotes

“This administration has been very willing to talk about using nuclear weapons in a way we haven’t seen since the dawn of a nuclear age. I think that’s a terrible mistake.”

-- Senator **Hillary Clinton** (D-NY), talking about use of nuclear weapons in Iran.

“I always had the sense that people in the Atomic Energy Commission were sorry we had dropped the bomb. The Air Force — it was also sorry. I was told by people in the Pentagon that they didn’t want those [film] images out because they showed effects on man, woman and child...They didn’t want the general public to know what their weapons had done -- at a time they were planning on more bomb tests. We didn’t want the material out because...we were sorry for our sins.”

-- Lt. Col. (Ret.) **Daniel A. McGovern**, who directed the US military filmmakers in 1945-1946, managed the Japanese footage, and then kept watch on all of the top-secret material for decades.

“I think it would be a profound mistake for us to use nuclear weapons in any circumstance involving civilians.”

-- Senator **Barack Obama** (D-IL)

“Nuclear weapon systems at a high level of readiness increase the risk of these weapons being used, including unintentionally or by accident. Such an eventuality would have catastrophic consequences...We call on States with nuclear weapons to take mutual action to remove all nuclear weapons from launch-on-warning status.”

-- New Zealand Disarmament and Arms Control Minister **Phil Goff**, announcing New Zealand’s plans to lead a call at the UN General Assembly for Nuclear Weapon States to draw back their nuclear arsenals from immediate launch readiness.

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