

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

Issue #134 - September 2008

The Sunflower is a monthly e-newsletter providing educational information on nuclear weapons abolition and other issues relating to global security. Help us spread the word and forward this to a friend.

Visit www.wagingpeace.org/donate to help sustain this valuable resource by making a donation.

To receive our free monthly e-newsletter subscribe at www.wagingpeace.org/subscribe

- Perspectives
 - NATO Nuclear Weapons: Power Without Purpose by David Krieger
 - Assessing the Georgian Crisis by Richard Falk
 - US Missile Defense: The Magic Pudding That Will Never Run Out by George Monbiot
- Nuclear Proliferation
 - US Official Claims Extensive Links Between China and Pakistan Nuclear Programs
 - Georgian Conflict Raises Nuclear Terror Concerns
 - Nuclear Suppliers Group Considering US-India Deal
 - New Poll Shows That Americans Believe Nuclear Weapons Make Them Less Safe
- Nuclear Insanity
 - More Trouble at Minot Air Force Base
 - Clear Channel Removes Ads Discouraging Nuclear Weapons
- Resources
 - US In the World
 - Arms Control Reporter
 - Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol Petition
- Foundation Activities
 - Hibakusha to Speak in Santa Barbara
 - New Nuclear Disarmament Coalition Forms in Los Angeles Area
 - Become a Peace Leader in Your Own Community
 - New Book Available: At the Nuclear Precipice: Catastrophe or Transformation?
- Quotes

Perspectives

NATO Nuclear Weapons: Power Without Purpose

by David Krieger

Europe is heavily armed with nuclear weapons. Both Britain and France possess their own nuclear forces and the United States has a long history of keeping nuclear weapons on European soil. Britain's nuclear force is estimated at under 200 weapons, with approximately 150 deployed on four Vanguard submarines and the

remainder kept in reserve. France is thought to have approximately 350 nuclear weapons in its *Force de frappe* (strike force). The US keeps some 200-350 nuclear weapons in six countries: Belgium, Germany, Holland, Italy, Turkey and the UK. Recent unconfirmed reports indicate that the US has pulled its nuclear weapons out of the UK. If this is correct, approximately 240 US nuclear weapons remain in five European countries. To read more, [click here](#).

Assessing the Georgian Crisis

by Richard Falk

After delays, the Russian promise to withdraw its military forces from Georgia seems to be taking shape. By the terms of the French-brokered ceasefire, Russian troops will remain in South Ossetia, plus occupy a security belt of undisclosed width in South Ossetia. The situation remains fluid and far from resolved. The South Ossetian leadership has indicated its unwillingness to have international monitors on its territory as was agreed in the ceasefire arrangement. There are also new indications of breakaway intentions on the part of Abkhazia, the other ethnic enclave hostile to Georgian claims of sovereignty, including the seizure of the Kodori Ridge, a strategic strip of land by Abkhas soldiers in the Caucasus Ridge. There is no doubt that at this point the territorial unity of the Georgian state has been shattered on a de facto basis as a result of the crisis, and that Russian power will act as a guarantor of South Ossetian and Abkhasian autonomy, which will achieve at minimum de facto independence for these two ethnic enclaves. To read more, [click here](#).

US Missile Defense: The Magic Pudding That Will Never Run Out

by George Monbiot

It's a novel way to take your own life. Just as Russia demonstrates what happens to former minions that annoy it, Poland agrees to host a US missile defense base. The Russians, as Poland expected, respond to this proposal by offering to turn the country into a parking lot. This proves that the missile defense system is necessary after all: it will stop the missiles Russia will now aim at Poland, the Czech Republic and the UK in response to, er, their involvement in the missile defense system.

The American government insists that the interceptors, which will be stationed on the Baltic coast, have nothing to do with Russia: their purpose is to defend Europe and the US against the intercontinental ballistic missiles Iran and North Korea don't possess. This is why they are being placed in Poland, which, as every geography student in Texas knows, shares a border with both rogue states. To read more, [click here](#).

Nuclear Proliferation

US Official Claims Extensive Links Between China and Pakistan Nuclear Programs

A former weapons lab official is arguing that China gave Pakistan the blueprint for an atomic bomb.

In a recent report featured in *Physics Today* magazine, former Air Force Secretary Thomas Reed, a former weapons lab scientist, claims that China gave extensive weapons support to Pakistan. He argues that the details given by China were far more detailed than a 2001 Defense Department report acknowledged about China's assistance in the Pakistani nuclear program.

"The Chinese nuclear weapons program is incredibly sophisticated," Reed says. "The scary part is how much Pakistan has learned from them." The Chinese and Pakistani embassies in Washington have not commented.

Reed is the co-author of a forthcoming book on the Chinese nuclear weapons program. Last year, Reed's co-author Danny Stillman won a lawsuit in which the Central Intelligence Agency was sued for classifying 23

pages of the book.

Vergano, Dan, "Report Says China Offered Widespread Help on Nukes," *USA Today*, August 28, 2008.

Georgian Conflict Raises Nuclear Terror Concerns

Security agencies are expressing concern that terrorists could use the chaos that has resulted from the conflict between Georgia and Russia to acquire fissile material for a "dirty bomb."

"There is no fear of a nuclear bomb coming out of this region, but the bigger danger is that a small amount of uranium combined with conventional explosive terrorists could make a dirty bomb that would make an area the size of the [London] Square Mile unusable for 30 or 40 years," according to one security source. "The economic impact would be catastrophic."

In 2005, Georgia reported blocking several attempts to smuggle highly enriched uranium. Three years ago, there was an incident in the disputed southern Ossetia region where approximately 71 pounds of uranium was being sold.

"Georgian Conflict Raises 'Dirty Bomb' Fears," *Global Security Newswire*, August 18, 2008.

Nuclear Suppliers Group Considering US-India Deal

On August 22, the international Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) rejected India and the United States' request to go forward with a nuclear trade agreement.

Approximately 20 out of the 45 countries that make up the consensus-based NSG rejected the US-India Deal that would allow nuclear trade without restrictions between the two countries. In order for the US-India Deal to move forward, all 45 members of the NSG must approve of the deal. The US is now required to revise its proposal and win NSG approval at their next meeting on September 4-5.

India has refused to sign the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, refused to allow international oversight of its nuclear weapons complex, and tested nuclear weapons in 1974 and 1998.

"Nuclear Suppliers Group Fails To Agree on Nuclear Trade with India," *Xinhua*, August 23, 2008.

New Poll Shows That Americans Believe Nuclear Weapons Make Them Less Safe

A new poll determined that an overwhelming majority of US adults believe that possession of nuclear weapons by some countries encourages others to develop nuclear weapons.

Of those who were asked, 68% said the possession of nuclear weapons by the United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea encourages countries without nuclear weapons to develop them.

22% of adults said it had no impact, and 11 percent said it discouraged development.

The poll, sponsored by the Campaign for Nuclear Weapons Free world, asked "Nine (9) countries - the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan, and North Korea - currently have nuclear weapons. The major nuclear powers have attempted to persuade other nations to not

develop nuclear weapons. What impact do you think the possession of nuclear weapons by these countries has on other countries that do not currently possess nuclear weapons - do you think it discourages them from developing nuclear weapons, encourages them to develop nuclear weapons, or has no impact on their developing nuclear weapons?"

"Nuclear Weapons for Some Encourage Nuclear Weapons for All," www.nuclearweaponsfree.org.

Nuclear Insanity

More Trouble at Minot Air Force Base

Two Air Force officers who worked at a missile base in North Dakota have been temporarily removed from their positions while the military investigates allegations they took home classified components used in underground launch controls centers.

The Air Force alleges that the two officers were supposed to have destroyed the two devices and had also signed documents stating that they had. Despite these allegations, the Air Force is saying that there is no risk to the security of the weapons system, and no possibility of an accidental launch as a result of this.

The officers being investigated worked at Minot Air Force Base's 91st Space Wing. They worked 90 feet underground behind large blast doors, ready to launch nuclear weapons.

This investigation was announced at the same time that three members of a ballistic missile crew at Minot Air Force Base were sanctioned for falling asleep while holding classified launch code devices. The officers received written reprimands and were required to forfeit a portion of their pay for two months.

In August 2007, six nuclear-armed missiles were accidentally flown from Minot Air Force Base to Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. The missiles were unaccounted-for for 36 hours before anyone realized the error.

"USAF Officers Probed Over Missile Documents," *Washington Post*, August 29, 2008.

Clear Channel Removes Ads Discouraging Nuclear Weapons

Northwest Airlines, the official airline of the Republican National Convention, has ordered an airport advertising firm, Clear Channel, to pull down an anti-nuclear weapons billboard ad at Minneapolis-St. Paul airport that was placed in time for the upcoming convention. Clear Channel claims it is "under a contractual obligation to remove advertising copy ... at the Minneapolis-St. Paul [airport] if [it] is objectionable to Northwest."

The ad, placed by advocacy group Union of Concerned Scientists, depicts a photo of an aerial cross-target locked onto downtown Minneapolis, the site of the convention that starts on September 1. It urges Sen. John McCain that "it's time to get serious about reducing the nuclear threat. When only one bomb could destroy a city like Minneapolis, we don't need 6,000."

Clear Channel also voluntarily removed the ad in Denver last week "after being informed of the reasons for Northwest Airlines' objections to the advertising copy in question."

Yu, Roger, "Airport Check-in: Northwest Airlines Orders Anti-Nuke Ad Removed," *USA Today*, August 25, 2008.

Resources

US In the World

America is facing critical choices about what it is and wants to be in an increasingly interconnected world—choices that will have a profound impact on Americans, on other peoples and countries, and on future generations. This guide pulls together facts and arguments and the most effective ways to put them across for advocates of pragmatic, principled, effective and collaborative US-global engagement. You can obtain this resource at <http://www.usintheworld.org>.

Arms Control Reporter

The Arms Control Reporter is a research and reference tool for the arms control professional and advocate. It makes accessible detailed and up-to-date information and analysis related to the full range of international arms control efforts. Originally published by the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies from 1982–2005, the Reporter covers efforts to limit all types of weapons: nuclear, biological, and chemical, major conventional weapons, small arms and light weapons, land mines, and others. Coverage includes implementation of existing treaties and negotiation of new agreements. To learn more, go to <http://www.armscontrolreporter.org/>.

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol Petition

Mayors for Peace, together with the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, have launched a new petition urging the leaders of the nuclear weapon states to disarm and to ensure that cities are no longer targeted by nuclear weapons.

You can read the petition and sign online at <https://www.ssl-hiroins.city.hiroshima.jp/pcf/en/form.htm>.

Foundation Activities

Hibakusha to Speak in Santa Barbara

Two *Hibakusha*, survivors of the US atomic bombing in Hiroshima in 1945, will speak at a forum in Santa Barbara, California, on September 16.

Junko Kayashige, aged 69, and Miyako Yano, 78, will tell their powerful stories to an audience at Santa Barbara City College's Fé Bland Forum at 7:00 pm. There will be time for a question and answer session with the audience. [Click here](#) to download a flyer.

The two will also travel to Irvine, California, to testify at the meeting of the University of California Regents about the effects of nuclear weapons. The University of California has managed the United States' major nuclear weapons labs since their inception.

New Nuclear Disarmament Coalition Forms in Los Angeles Area

Foundation President David Krieger will be the introductory speaker at a meeting in Los Angeles to form a new nuclear disarmament coalition.

The public is welcome to attend and contribute to the event, which will take place on Saturday, September 6 from 1:00 - 5:00 pm at St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 3590 Grand View Blvd. in Los Angeles.

The meeting is organized by the Unity-and-Diversity General Assembly and Westside Progressives. For more information, contact Rev. Leland Stewart at (310) 391-5735.

Become a Peace Leader in Your Own Community

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has launched an initiative to recruit peace leaders for local communities. Peace leaders will use the [DVD *Nuclear Weapons and the Human Future*](#), the [Appeal to the Next President](#), and other tools to advocate for a peaceful, nuclear weapons-free world in their own communities.

Foundation staff is available to help you develop a plan that suits you. For more information and to sign up, [click here](#).

New Book Available: At the Nuclear Precipice: Catastrophe or Transformation?

David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, and Richard Falk, Chair of the Board, have edited a new book titled *At the Nuclear Precipice: Catastrophe or Transformation?*

The book focuses on an even more urgent and "inconvenient truth" than global warming. It explores the present nuclear predicament, and how to step away from the precipice and assure humanity's future. It examines the intersections between international law and national policies; and between nuclear proliferation, nuclear terrorism and nuclear disarmament. The book offers a way out if policy makers of leading countries can summon the vision and political will to move in a new direction.

You can pre-order a copy of the book by [clicking here](#). For bulk orders, please contact the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at (805) 965-3443.

Quotes

"The suspicion arises that someone in the United States created this conflict deliberately to create tension and help one of the candidates in the US presidential campaign."

-- Russian Prime Minister **Vladimir Putin**, referring to the recent conflict between Russia and Georgia.

"We're not going to allow Russia to draw a new line around those states not yet integrated [into NATO] like Ukraine and Georgia."

-- US Secretary of State **Condoleezza Rice**, referring to Russia's anger at NATO's eastward expansion.

Editorial Team

David Krieger
Nickolas Roth
Vicki Stevenson
Rick Wayman