

THE SUNflower



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Perspectives

A Major Step Forward for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament

by David Krieger

The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council possess over 98 percent of the more than 20,000 nuclear weapons in the world. Recently, President Obama led a session of the Council focusing on nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. The other heads of state of the member states on the Security Council joined him for that meeting.

[Click here](#) to read more.

A Dialogue on Deterrence

by David Krieger and Lyle Brecht

The September 7, 2009 issue of *Newsweek* carried an article by Jonathan Tepperman in praise of the bomb. The article was entitled "[Why Obama Should Learn to Love the Bomb](#)." I was disappointed to see a mainstream media source carrying an article so frivolous as to suggest, "The bomb may actually make us safer." In response, I wrote a short rebuttal of Tepperman's article, "[Still Loving the Bomb After All These Years](#)." My article elicited a response from analyst Lyle Brecht, who sent me a copy of his [excellent brief](#) on deterrence doctrine. We then had the following exchange of thoughts on nuclear deterrence.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Address to the UN Security Council

by President Barack Obama

In the six-plus decades that this Security Council has been in existence, only four other meetings of this nature have been convened. I called for this one so that we may address at the highest level a fundamental threat to the security of all peoples and all nations: the spread and use of nuclear weapons.

As I said yesterday, this very institution was founded at the dawn of the atomic age, in part because man's capacity to kill had to be contained. And although we averted a nuclear nightmare during the Cold War, we now face proliferation of a scope and complexity that demands new strategies and new approaches.

[Click here](#) to read more.

Nuclear Disarmament

UN Security Council Approves Disarmament Resolution

On September 24, the United Nations Security Council endorsed a resolution intended to point the way toward global nuclear disarmament. The resolution, prepared by the United States, is aimed at discouraging withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, increasing membership in the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and creating additional nuclear weapon-free zones, among other measures.

Although the resolution won unanimous approval from the 15-nation body, the United States failed to secure permission from Russia and China to specifically cite nuclear threats posed by Iran and North Korea.

A White House [fact sheet](#) described the resolution as a step toward eventual worldwide nuclear disarmament.

Hanley, Charles, "[Obama-Led UN Council Backs Broad Nuclear Agenda](#)," *Associated Press*, September 25, 2009.

UN Secretary-General Urges More Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones

Speaking in Mexico City during a UN-related event on nuclear disarmament, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the establishment of more nuclear weapon-free zones (NWFZ) around the world.

Currently, there are nuclear weapon-free zones in Latin America and the Caribbean, Central Asia, the South Pacific, Southeast Asia and Africa.

“We are hoping to see progress on this topic, especially in the Middle East,” said Ban. Parties to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty pledged in 1995 to work toward a NWFZ in the Middle East.

“[UN Chief Encourages Creation of Additional Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones](#),” *Global Security Newswire*, September 10, 2009.

Nuclear Proliferation

Iran Announces Second Uranium Enrichment Facility

Iran has announced the existence of its second uranium enrichment facility, this one in an underground bunker near the holy city of Qom. Leaders of the United States and other Western nations have condemned the Iranians for this latest development, as did Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency. ElBaradei said that Iran violated international agreements because “Iran was supposed to inform us on the day it was decided to construct the facility. They have not done that.”

US officials have signaled that they may seek a one-on-one meeting with their Iranian counterparts in Geneva on October 1.

Kessler, Glenn, “[US to Seek Rare Meeting With Iran on Nuclear Program](#),” *Washington Post*, September 30, 2009.

Nuclear Insanity

Brazilian Vice President Says Country Needs Nuclear Weapons

Brazilian Vice President Jose Alencar has said that he believes Brazil should develop nuclear weapons to gain international respectability and deter attacks on its offshore oil sites. Alencar cited the example of Pakistan, which he said has “a seat in various international entities, precisely for having an atomic bomb.”

Brazil is a signatory to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which prohibits Latin American and Caribbean countries from developing nuclear weapons.

“[Brazil Favors Developing Nuclear Weapons](#),” *United Press International*, September 28, 2009.

Missile Defense

US Abandons Controversial Plans for Missile Defense in Eastern Europe

President Obama has scrapped the Bush administration’s controversial plans for a missile defense system in Eastern Europe. The plans called for a radar system in the Czech Republic and ground-based interceptor missiles in Poland. The plan infuriated Russia, which felt that the system could be used against it.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates explained that the US is not abandoning the concept of missile defense in the region. The new idea is to move away from ground-based interceptors designed for long-range missiles and instead utilize sea-based systems designed to intercept short- and medium-range missiles.

Barnes, Julian and Greg Miller, "[Obama Overturns Bush-Era Plan for Missile Shield in Eastern Europe](#)," *Los Angeles Times*, September 18, 2009.

Nuclear Testing

Indian Scientist's Remarks Start Debate Over Nuclear Testing

An Indian scientist's call for his nation to conduct further nuclear tests has drummed up support within India's military and scientific circles for a new round of nuclear test explosions.

K. Santhanam, who participated in India's last nuclear tests in 1998, said that the yield of the thermonuclear device tested did not meet expectations. Santhanam urged India to test again and to refuse to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Pakistan, India's main rival in the region, also possesses nuclear weapons. However, Pakistan indicated it may not respond in kind to new Indian nuclear tests. "We do not have to follow a tit-for-tat policy. Pakistan is capable of protecting its interests if India carried out further nuclear tests," said Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

"[Indian Scientist's Remark Kicks Off Debate Over Nuclear Test Agenda](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, September 10, 2009.

US Planning Series of Subcritical Tests at Nevada Test Site

The US Department of Energy (DOE) has planned a series of three "subcritical" tests at the Nevada Test Site this fall. Subcritical tests do not produce a nuclear chain-reaction. The tests are part of the DOE's Stockpile Stewardship program, and are intended to show whether nuclear weapons components such as plutonium and uranium will develop problems as they age.

Many people believe that subcritical tests violate the spirit of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which the US has signed but not ratified. The US has conducted nearly two dozen subcritical tests since 1997.

Rogers, Keith, "Nevada Test Site Turns to Nonproliferation Efforts," *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, September 19, 2009.

Military-Industrial Complex

US Prepares for \$7.8 Billion Missile Sale to Turkey

The Obama administration recently notified Congress of a possible sale of Patriot PAC-3 antimissile batteries and related components valued at \$7.8 billion to Turkey.

The primary contractors for the Turkish sale would be Raytheon Co. and Lockheed Martin Corp. The notice of a potential sale is required by law. It does not mean a sale has been concluded.

In the case of a NATO member such as Turkey, Congress has 15 days to block a proposed arms deal by passing a joint resolution of disapproval, though it never has stopped a sale once formally notified.

Turkey's geostrategic importance for the United States depends partly on Incirlik Air Base, located near Adana in southeast

Turkey. KC-135 refueling planes operating out of Incirlik have delivered more than 35 million gallons of fuel to US warplanes on missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to a Congressional Research Service report last year.

“[US Eyes \\$7.8 Billion Missile Sale to Turkey](#),” *Reuters*, September 11, 2009.

Resources

Disarmament: A Basic Guide

[Disarmament: A Basic Guide](#) is a new publication from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, written by Melissa Gillis.

The guide outlines the importance of disarmament, the current levels of global arms expenditures and the disarmament status of many classes of weapons, including nuclear, biological and chemical.

Foundation Activities

International Youth Dialogue on Nuclear Disarmament

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is hosting the Santa Barbara venue for an international youth dialogue on nuclear disarmament, which will be held via video conference on October 26-27. Students from the Santa Barbara area are invited to participate in one or both days of the conference. There is no cost to participate, but students must [register in advance](#).

There will also be venues in Philadelphia, Mexico City and Moscow. Other sponsoring organizations include the Project for Nuclear Awareness, International Network of Scientists and Engineers for Global Responsibility and many others.

NAPF Welcomes New Peace Leadership Director

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation welcomes its new Peace Leadership Director, Paul Chappell, who began work in September. Paul is a West Point graduate and a veteran of the Iraq conflict.

Earlier this year, Paul published a book titled *Will War Ever End?: A Soldier's Vision of Peace for the 21st Century*. Paul's military service clarified his resolve to work for peace, and he has a great story to share with people of all ages.

Paul will be speaking in many parts of the United States in the coming months, representing the Foundation's new Peace Leadership Program. For more information on the Peace Leadership Program and to get involved, [click here](#).

Quotes

“A world in which nuclear weapons are recognized as indiscriminate, illegal and immoral and thus rejected and eliminated is possible. Working together, we can make that vision a reality.”

-- Excerpt from a statement by **17 Nobel Laureates** calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons. [Click here](#) to read the full statement.

“[I] question whether countries which declare their willingness to make first use of nuclear weapons have any right to speak about nuclear disarmament, or nuclear non-proliferation, in particular non-proliferation. From that standpoint, what

I have said is that the first use of nuclear weapons should not be accepted.”

-- Japanese Foreign Minister **Katsuya Okada**

“I think there are a lot of people that still hope for the return of RRW (the Reliable Replacement Warhead program) and they are going to be sadly disappointed.”

-- **Ellen Tauscher**, US Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security

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