

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

Ratification of New START Is Necessary

by David Krieger

In April 2009, President Obama went to Prague and spoke out for a world free of nuclear weapons. “I state clearly and with conviction,” he said, “America’s commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.” He indicated that he was prepared to take necessary steps to advance this cause. In order “to reduce our warheads and stockpiles,” he promised to negotiate a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with the Russians during the year. This treaty, known as New START, took longer than anticipated to negotiate and was signed by Presidents Obama and Medvedev on April 8, 2010. The next month, the treaty was submitted to the Senate for ratification.

Failure to ratify would be a major setback not only for the Obama administration, but also for the prospects of achieving President Obama’s vision, and that of many other committed leaders, of a world without nuclear weapons.

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

The Moral Challenge of a Nuclear-Free World

by Katsuya Okada and Guido Westerwelle

Some may ask themselves why Japan and Germany are seeking to pursue nuclear disarmament with such vigor when both countries rely on the United States for nuclear deterrence. Our countries have long been advocates of disarmament. Since re-emerging from total devastation in the second world war, both countries have pursued a peaceful and stable world and the total elimination of nuclear weapons. It is in such a shared conviction that we find a common role. And we believe that pursuing nuclear disarmament is the path that will most reliably minimize nuclear risks and enhance international security..

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

Nuclear Dangers and Opportunities in the Middle East

by Richard Falk and David Krieger

Iran's uranium enrichment program has drawn much criticism, and there has been talk in both Israel and the United States of possible attacks against Iranian nuclear facilities. The drift toward a military solution seems to be gathering an alarming momentum, with little public discussion of alternative approaches in the mainstream US media. There would likely be very heavy costs associated with carrying out such attacks.

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

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

Protestors Oppose New Nuclear Weapons Facility in Kansas City

Ground was broken on a new nuclear weapons manufacturing plant in Kansas City on September 8. The plant will produce non-nuclear components for US nuclear weapons. Seven activists were arrested for disorderly conduct outside the groundbreaking ceremony for their protest activities.

"We're here for peace," said Jane Stoever of Kansas City Peace Planters. "This nuclear weapons production plant marks the first major new facility in our nuclear weapons arsenal in 32 years."

"Protestors Oppose Non-nuclear Parts Manufacturing Facility in South Kansas City," *NBC Action News*, September 8, 2010.

Nuclear Proliferation

UK Defense Secretary Promises to Keep Nuclear Weapons

Liam Fox, the UK Secretary of Defense, has assured US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates that the UK will keep nuclear weapons. Gates had expressed concern about the debate in the UK about whether or not the country should replace its Trident nuclear weapon system. Gates expressed that he did not want the US to have sole responsibility for "nuclear deterrence" among NATO allies.

"UK to Retain Nukes, Defense Secretary Tells US," *Global Security Newswire*, September 24, 2010.

Pakistan Prevents Access to A.Q. Khan

The government of Pakistan has renewed its prohibition of foreign governments having contact with the renowned nuclear proliferator A.Q. Khan. Khan has confessed to providing nuclear technology to Libya, Iran

and North Korea. Since being released from prison, Khan has been constantly monitored by Pakistani security forces.

“Pakistan Declares Khan Off-Limits,” *Global Security Newswire*, September 29, 2010.

Stuxnet Cyber-Weapon May Target Iranian Nuclear Program

A computer worm called Stuxnet that is infecting systems around the world is thought to be targeted against the Iranian nuclear program. The worm has hit computers mainly in Iran, but also in other countries including India and Russia. The computer program is designed to override the control systems on a major industrial facility, such as a nuclear power plant. Because of the relatively high number of computers infected with the worm in Iran, it is thought that it was created to disrupt or destroy Iran's nuclear program.

It is not yet known who created Stuxnet, although certain clues are emerging. Some computer experts suspect Israeli involvement in the development of the virus because of the use of the word Myrtus in the code. Myrtus refers to the Bible's Book of Esther, in which the Jews preemptively attack the Persians, who are plotting to destroy them. Israel has denied any involvement in the production of the Stuxnet virus.

Markoff, John and David Sanger, “In a Computer Worm, a Possible Biblical Clue,” *The New York Times*, September 29, 2010.

Nuclear Insanity

Bathroom Fumes Shut Down Plutonium Processing

The spontaneous generation of a potentially explosive compound formed from a combination of bathroom cleaners and plutonium vapors has shut down two processing areas inside Los Alamos National Laboratory's Plutonium Facility-4 (PF-4). This threat has stopped plutonium processing in the nation's only facility for production of nuclear weapons plutonium pit “triggers” since mid-July.

It turns out that PF-4 restrooms share a common ventilation flow path with “vapors being exhausted from [plutonium] process gloveboxes.” The bathrooms are kept clean with products containing ammonia. The Lab theorizes that ammonia from the restrooms is being drawn into the common ventilation system, where it mixes with the nitric acid vapors exhausted from plutonium processing, thereby forming potentially explosive ammonium nitrate.

“Los Alamos Report for Week Ending July 9, 2010,” *Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board*, July 9, 2010.

Attempted Koran Burner Works at US Nuclear Weapons Facility

On September 11, David Grisham attempted to publicly burn a Koran in a Texas park. He was thwarted by 23-year-old skateboarder Jacob Isom, who recounts the events of that day in a now-infamous news [interview](#).

Further investigation into Grisham's background revealed that he is employed as an armed security guard at the B&W Pantex plant in Amarillo, Texas, where the nation's nuclear weapons are assembled. A B&W Pantex spokesman said, "The opinions of Mr. Grisham do not represent or correspond with that of the company, and Mr. Grisham does not represent the company during his personal time."

Rayfield, Jillian, "Koran Burner Thwarted by Skateboarder Has Day Job at Nuke Facility," *Talking Points Memo*, September 14, 2010.

Missile Defense

NATO Chief Suggests Inviting Russia

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Secretary General of NATO, has called for an inclusion of Russia in a common missile defense system. "If we manage to create an inclusive missile defense system, it can reinforce a virtuous circle," Rasmussen said during an event in Rome. Moscow took a strong stance against George W. Bush administration plans to build missile defense systems in Eastern Europe, such as a radar base in Czech Republic and missile interceptors in Poland. Moscow remains skeptical of President Obama's plans for missile defenses in Europe.

"Bring Russia Inside Security Tent, NATO Chief Says," *Global Security Newswire*, September 20, 2010.

Nuclear Testing

US Conducts Subcritical Test in Nevada

The United States conducted a "subcritical" test on September 15 at the Nevada National Security Site, formerly known as the Nevada Test Site.

Subcritical experiments examine the behavior of plutonium as it is strongly shocked by forces produced by chemical high explosives. The experiments are subcritical; that is, no critical mass is formed and it is thought that no self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction can occur.

The United States has not conducted a full-scale nuclear explosion since a self-imposed moratorium in 1992. However, the Senate has still not ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which would formalize the US commitment to not conduct full-scale tests.

"Bacchus Subcritical Experiment Conducted at Nevada National Security Site," *Nevada Site Office News*, September 15, 2010.

Nuclear Energy and Waste

New Book Concludes Chernobyl Death Toll Stands at 985,000

A new book, *Chernobyl: Consequences of the Catastrophe for People and the Environment*, concludes that based on records now available, some 985,000 people died between 1986 and 2004, mainly of cancer, as a result of the Chernobyl accident.

Alice Slater, New York representative of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, comments: “The tragic news uncovered by the comprehensive new research that almost one million people died in the toxic aftermath of Chernobyl should be a wake-up call to people all over the world to petition their governments to put a halt to the current industry-driven ‘nuclear renaissance.’ Aided by a corrupt IAEA, the world has been subjected to a massive cover-up and deception about the true damages caused by Chernobyl.”

Grossman, Karl, “New Book Concludes: Chernobyl Death Toll: 985,000, Mostly from Cancer,” *Op-Ed News*, September 3, 2010.

War and Peace

A Win for the Peace Movement

Fourteen anti-war activists made history by turning a minor trespassing charge into a possibly major referendum against American use of drone warfare. On April 9, 2009, members of the group were arrested for entering Creech Air Force Base in Nevada to protest the use of drones.

The group summoned three witnesses to their defense: Ramsey Clark, former US attorney general; Ann Wright, a retired US Army colonel; and Bill Quigley, legal director for the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York. Witnesses spoke of the meaning of trespassing, and the “necessity defense and international law, which allows citizens to break minor laws in adherence to a higher law.”

The court recessed for three months so that the judge could consider their arguments. Defendant John Dear said although a straight win would have been ideal, there was a small victory because the judge had actually listened.

Dear, John, “A Peace Movement Victory in Court,” *Common Dreams*, September 18, 2010.

Resources

New Resources from the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has published two valuable resources that

highlight the urgent necessity to begin negotiations on a comprehensive treaty banning all nuclear weapons.

The [first](#) is an 8-page summary of ICAN's progress and where it is headed. The [second](#) is an 18-page public education resource making the case against nuclear weapons.

New Nuclear Weapons Would Sacrifice Thousands of Jobs

A new report by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament concludes that a decision to replace the UK's Trident nuclear weapon system would cause the loss of thousands of jobs. Because the money for new nuclear weapons is required to come from the country's overstretched defense budget, numerous other projects would have to be cut.

The report concludes that by diverting resources from nuclear weapons -- a dead-end industry in more ways than one -- the UK could create far more employment and economic growth.

[Click here](#) to read the full report.

Civil Society Statement on the Conference on Disarmament

A strong statement calling for progress in the Conference on Disarmament has been drafted by Reaching Critical Will and the Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy. Many groups, including the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, have endorsed the statement.

The statement offers a number of suggestions as to how the Conference on Disarmament can move its work forward. It concludes by pointing out that civil society has a vested interest in resolving the long-term structural, procedural, and substantive issues with respect to disarmament processes and intends to continue to collaborate with governments and UN officials on finding the most appropriate solutions to the continued deadlock.

To read the full statement, [click here](#). For more information on the Conference on Disarmament, [click here](#) to visit Reaching Critical Will's detailed page.

Foundation Activities

The Most Dangerous Man in America: October 5 on PBS

Daniel Ellsberg, a NAPF Distinguished Fellow and member of the Advisory Council, is the subject of a new documentary entitled *The Most Dangerous Man in America*. The Academy Award-nominated documentary tells the story of Ellsberg's courageous decision to release the Pentagon Papers in 1971.

The film will have its broadcast premiere in the United States on October 5 on PBS as part of the POV series. On most PBS stations, it will air at 9:00 pm. Please check your local listings to confirm the time it is showing in your area.

NAPF Representatives Speaking Around the US this Month

Representatives of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will be speaking in many locations throughout the United States during the month of October.

NAPF President David Krieger will speak in Los Angeles on October 16 as part of Soka Gakkai International's "Culture of Peace" series. He will then travel to Missouri to speak at an event sponsored by the University of Missouri Friends of Peace Studies on October 20. He then will deliver a keynote address and participate in a panel discussion at the United Nations Day celebration in San Francisco on October 24.

NAPF Peace Leadership Director Paul Chappell will be in the San Francisco Bay Area from October 4-9 giving a series of lectures and peace leadership workshops, many of which are open to the public. He also speaks at Marian University in Wisconsin on October 13 and in Long Beach on October 18. Paul will finish the month of October with a series of lectures and workshops in Kentucky from October 25-31.

NAPF New York Representative Alice Slater will participate in a panel discussion following the presentation of the documentary *Nuclear Tipping Point* on October 14 in Stamford, CT.

For more information on these events, please call the Foundation at (805) 965-3443 or visit our [online calendar](#).

NAPF Evening for Peace: October 29

On October 29 the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will honor Rev. James Lawson and Professor Glenn Paige with the Distinguished Peace Leadership Award. The awards are part of the Foundation's 27th Annual Evening for Peace, which shines a light on outstanding peace leaders around the world.

On the eve of his death in 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called Rev. James Lawson "the leading theorist and strategist of nonviolence in the world." Rev. Lawson played a key role in many events during the Civil Rights movement and continues to train activists in nonviolence.

A former soldier in the Korean War who once wrote a book in defense of that war, Glenn Paige went on to do pioneering work in outlining a theory for the progressive eradication of killing. His book *Nonkilling Global Political Science* has been translated into more than 20 languages.

For more information on the Evening for Peace, contact Michael Kemp at (805) 965-3443 or mkemp@napf.org.

New NAPF DVD Now Available

A new DVD featuring the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's new video *The Myth of Nuclear Deterrence* is now available to order online. The DVD contains the featured video plus many other Foundation videos, including *Nuclear Weapons and the Human Future* and the 2009 and 2010 Swackhamer Disarmament Video Contest winners.

The DVDs are available for a charge of \$3 to cover shipping and handling by [clicking here](#). You can also watch *The Myth of Nuclear Deterrence* on [YouTube](#) or [download](#) a copy for free.

Quotes

“It’s like building a Corvette in a Model-T factory.”

-- Sen. **Lamar Alexander** (R-TN), referring to the conditions of the nuclear weapon factory at Y-12 in Tennessee. Sen. Alexander is one of many Republican Senators demanding billions of dollars for new nuclear weapon production facilities in exchange for their “YES” vote on the New START treaty.

“I don’t understand why people are so reluctant to discuss the issue and deal with it. We need to. It’s a public safety issue, the dismantlement and disarming of those nuclear weapons.”

-- Albuquerque, New Mexico City Councilor **Rey Garduño**, encouraging his fellow City Council members to recommend the removal of all nuclear weapons from Kirtland Air Force Base. The measure was rejected in a 5-4 vote.

“[People] are allowed to trespass if it’s for the greater good - and there are certainly exceptions [to the law] when there is an emerging, urgent need.”

-- Attorney **Bill Quigley**, representing non-violent activists accused of trespassing at Creech Air Force Base to protest the offensive use of unmanned drone aircraft by the US military around the world.

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