

# THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

**Issue #171 - October 2011**

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## Perspectives

### **US Cancels Nuclear-Capable Missile Test on International Day of Peace**

by David Krieger

The US Air Force is standing down its plan to launch a nuclear-capable missile on the United Nations

International Day of Peace. It's a very small step, but it is a step in the right direction. It's possible that the Air Force planners didn't know about the International Day of Peace or even that there is such a day. There is such a day, though, and it is observed annually by the countries of the world on September 21st.

When the Air Force announced that it had scheduled a test of a nuclear-capable Minuteman III inter-continental ballistic missile for September 21st, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation notified its Action Alert Network. Members of this Network sent over 7,000 messages to President Obama calling for cancellation of the offending missile test, and for the president to act in taking US nuclear weapons off high-alert status.

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

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## North Korean Delusions

by Martin Hellman

Reading the mainstream media, you'd be forgiven if you thought the only problems with North Korea's nuclear weapons program were a direct result of that rogue nation's "nut job" leaders. The most recent example is the coverage of a talk on nuclear proliferation given by my friend and colleague, Dr. Siegfried Hecker. While he's now a professor here at Stanford, in his former life, he was Director of Los Alamos from 1986 to 1997, so "when Sig talks, people listen."

If we will temporarily put denuclearization aside and address some of their legitimate security concerns - we've threatened to attack them repeatedly, and Obama's 2010 Nuclear Posture Review leaves open the possibility of our using nuclear weapons against them - Hecker is convinced by his seven visits there that we can get what he calls "three NOs for one YES": no more bombs, no better bombs, and no export in return for our treating them with some respect and reducing the level of threat that they feel from us and South Korea.

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

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## US Nuclear Weapons Policy

### Kansas City Activists Withdraw Ballot Measure

Experienced peace activist Rachel McNair maintains an optimistic attitude despite the decision to back down from a three-year battle taking place between protesters and the city council of Kansas City, MO. The issue at hand involves the construction of a \$1.2 billion factory to manufacture non-nuclear components of nuclear weapons. In a series of non-violent actions, these protesters have proven that public support for green energy over nuclear weapons is significant. However, the group's ballot measure was denied on the basis that placement on the ballot "conflicts with the constitutional power of the federal government to provide for the national defense."

In light of the court challenge, the protesters made a decision to withdraw. "Why would we want to let them keep us in the courtroom? We have better things to do than that. We want to get things in shape so we can really stop this plant, and focus on converting it to green energy use," says McNair.

McElwee, Joshua, "[Peace Activists Make 'Strategic Withdrawal'](#)," *National Catholic Reporter*, September 14, 2011.

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## Nuclear Proliferation

### Tons of US-Supplied Nuclear Weapons Material Missing

The United States cannot fully account for over 16,000 kilograms of weapons-grade uranium and plutonium that has been exported to 27 different countries around the world. The Government Accountability Office has found that the United States' tracking system, the Nuclear Materials Management and Safeguard System, is quite obsolete in today's era. In fact, the US has no real supervisory power to oversee what happens with the exported material and so is simply forced to take the words of the receiving countries that the material will be used appropriately. Even when officials have had the chance to investigate, they have found that half the time regulations are not being met.

The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty dictates that nuclear export agreements "should commit parties to establish and maintain a system of accounting for nuclear material, with a view to preventing diversion of nuclear energy from peaceful uses."

Weinstein, Adam, "[Missing: Tons of US-Supplied Nuclear Weapons Material](#)," *Mother Jones*, September 13, 2011.

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### **IAEA Meeting Ends in Disunity**

The annual General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency has ended in discord over a resolution titled "Strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the safeguards system and application of the model additional protocol." Normally, the IAEA's main objective is to ensure that non-nuclear weapon states are not diverting nuclear technology towards the creation of nuclear weapons. At this year's conference, Iran, Cuba, and Egypt included a proposition relating to the active disarmament of countries already in possession of nuclear weapons.

An unnamed Western diplomat responded with anger and concern by stating that the three countries are expressing "a willingness to destroy any international consensus on the issue." Another Western diplomat revealed that the five recognized atomic states-- United States, Russia, China, France, and Britain--refused to accept such a proposal, believing the IAEA was not the appropriate forum to conduct disarmament procedures.

Dahl, Fredrik, "[U.N. Nuclear Body Ends Annual Meeting in Disunity](#)," *Reuters*, September 23, 2011.

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## **Nuclear Insanity**

### **US Plans to Increase Nuclear Weapon Material Production in Civilian Plant**

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) have announced a plan to increase tritium production by 50% at the Watts Bar "civilian" nuclear power plant. Tritium is a key component of nuclear weapons, boosting the explosive power of fission and thermonuclear weapons.

In the announcement of the proposed 50% increase in production, NNSA admitted that current tritium production is releasing three to four times the amount of tritium into the Tennessee River as originally estimated. NNSA also admits that tritium demand has been less than they originally expected.

Ralph Hutchison, coordinator of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, said, "Our use of commercial nuclear facilities to produce nuclear materials for weapons has sent a powerful, clear and dangerous signal to the rest of the world. It has undermined our efforts to constrain weapons production activities, crossed a once-impermeable boundary [between civilian and military facilities], and diminished our security."

Hutchison also said, "With the likely prospect of additional arms control agreements, and budget constraints leading to calls for a reduction in the bloated US strategic reserve (the 5,000 or so warheads we keep in the garage in case we ever use up our 1,500 deployed warheads and need more), the need for tritium will continue to decline. Still these agencies are proposing a 50% increase in production!"

Hutchison, Ralph, "NNSA Announce Plan for 50% Increase in Tritium Production," *Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance*, September 29, 2011.

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## Nuclear Energy and Waste

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### Safety in Question at Biggest US Nuclear Cleanup Site

Bechtel Corp. is working on a \$12.3 billion project in Washington state to "convert radioactive sludge to solid glass," which would then be stored at a future waste dump. This project is meant to protect the nearby Columbia River from contamination by over 56 million gallons of radioactive sludge currently stored in underground tanks. However, scientists and engineers involved in the project have raised serious doubts about the reliability of the tanks and mixers that would be used to process the radioactive material.

The mixers, which are used to prevent plutonium from collecting and starting a chain reaction, which in turn prevent explosive hydrogen gas from forming, are supposed to last about 30 years, yet test results indicate that after a few months they wear out. Despite this and concerns from various scientists and engineers, Dale Knutson, the Energy Department's senior on-site manager, has authorized Bechtel to continue work. "The design of the tanks is flawed. The tests showed it and the safety engineers showed it. The decision to let Bechtel continue transfers the economic risk to the taxpayers. It amounts to a decision to approve a defective design," said Tom Carpenter, Executive Director of the group Hanford Challenge.

Vartabedian, Ralph, "[Safety Doubts Raised at U.S. Nuclear Waste Cleanup Project](#)," *Los Angeles Times*, August 14, 2011.

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## Resources

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### Dream of a Nation

NAPF President David Krieger has written a chapter on nuclear weapons abolition for the book *Dream of a Nation*, which will be released on October 15, 2011. The chapter is entitled "Creating a World Without Nuclear Weapons."

*Dream of a Nation* is a comprehensive resource for any reader interested in gaining critical information and deepening his or her role as an empowered citizen. This handbook provides statistics and accessible analyses of the many interconnected social and environmental issues we face with compelling stories of individuals and institutions that are creating the changes necessary for our country to be more environmentally oriented, peaceful, equitable, and tolerant.

[Click here](#) to order a copy of the book.

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### Costs, Risks and Myths of Nuclear Power

Reaching Critical Will, a project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, has published a study on the implications of the catastrophe at the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station in Japan. The report is a collaborative work of non-governmental researchers, scientists and activists.

This report includes civil society analysis of nuclear power infrastructure and attendant government policies from around the world. It also provides arguments against the common myths of nuclear power in its relationship to safety, the environment, renewable energy, climate change, economics and more.

To download a copy of the report, [click here](#).

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### **Nuclear Plan and Budget Realities**

The Federation of American Scientists (FAS) and Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) have published a joint analysis of the National Nuclear Security Administration's new Stockpile Stewardship Management Plan (SSMP). The plan foresees significant increases in nuclear weapons maintenance and modernization costs, and conflicts with the fiscal realities of the financial crisis and the Budget Control Act recently passed by Congress. The analysis is the first in a series of four joint blogs that FAS and UCS plan to publish over the next week.

Authors of the analysis include Nickolas Roth, former NAPF Washington DC Director; Hans Kristensen, Director of the FAS Nuclear Information Project; and Stephen Young, Senior Analyst at UCS.

To read part one of the analysis, [click here](#).

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### **The Forgotten Bomb**

*The Forgotten Bomb*, a new film by Bud Ryan, examines the political and legal implications of nuclear weapons, but also digs deeper, into the cultural and psychological reasons behind the arsenal's existence. Bud Ryan's quest takes us from the homes of *hibakusha* (A-bomb survivors) in Japan, to an abandoned uranium mine in New Mexico, to an underground Titan missile silo in Arizona. From these places, and many others, Ryan puts together the pieces of a puzzle that explain why we have the bomb, and how we might finally do away with it.

Through interviews with atomic scientists, politicians, authors, statesmen, and atomic bomb survivors, *The Forgotten Bomb* examines what The Bomb means to us all, and why we need to think about it again, now, even though the Cold War is long over.

For more information on *The Forgotten Bomb* and to purchase a copy, [click here](#).

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### **Nuclear Weapons Spending: A Theft of Public Resources**

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has published a four-page report challenging government investments in nuclear arms. Prepared by Tim Wright, Australian Director of ICAN, the report provides many facts about nuclear weapons spending that are particularly astonishing when put into perspective.

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

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## **Foundation Activities**

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### **From Hiroshima to Hope - October 9**

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will hold its 28th Annual Evening for Peace on Sunday, October 9, 2011 in Santa Barbara, California. The event, entitled "From Hiroshima to Hope," will honor **Tadatoshi Akiba**, former Mayor of Hiroshima and past President of Mayors for Peace, and **Shigeko Sasamori**, a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bombing, who will accept an award on behalf of all *hibakusha* of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Please join us for an inspiring evening to honor two courageous leaders for peace. For more information or to reserve tickets, please call (805) 965-3443.

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### **Winners of the Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Awards Announced**

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has announced the winners of the 2011 Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Awards. The winners are Valentina Gnup (adult category), Martin Conte (youth 13-18 category) and Isabella Robarge (youth 12 and under category).

[Click here](#) to read the winning poems and to find out more information about the 2012 contest.

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### **David Krieger to Receive Earth Charter Award**

NAPF President David Krieger will receive the Ventura County Earth Charter Award for Democracy, Nonviolence and Peace on October 8. Presented by Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions, the award honors Dr. Krieger's lifelong dedication to the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The Earth Charter has been referred to as the declaration of interdependence. It articulates the shared responsibility we have to one another and to the planet itself. Created by the largest global collaborative process ever associated with an international declaration, the Earth Charter was drafted over a 10-year period by thousands of individuals from 77 countries. It was launched at The Hague Peace Palace in 2000. Subsequently endorsed by thousands of organizations representing millions of individuals worldwide, Ventura County is the first U.S. county to have endorsed the Charter. The Earth Charter is an expression of hope and a call to help create a global partnership at a critical juncture in history.

The awards ceremony will take place on Saturday, October 8, at 3:00 pm at the Wright Library on the campus of Ventura College. [Click here](#) for more information.

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### **Waging Peace - New NAPF Annual Report Now Available**

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has just published its 2010 Annual Report. It highlights the many programs and activities the Foundation undertook in 2010 in working for a peaceful, nuclear weapon-free world.

[Click here](#) to download a PDF copy of the annual report.

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## **Quotes**

"The Super Committee should not reduce funding to vital programs relied upon by millions of Americans. Cut Minuteman missiles. Do not cut Medicare and Medicaid. Cut nuclear-armed B-52, B-1, and B-2 bombers. Do not cut Social Security. Invest in the future, don't waste money on the past."

-- Rep. **Edward Markey** (D-MA), in a "Dear Colleague" letter he is circulating in Congress aimed at getting

the Super Committee to cut \$200 billion over the next 10 years from the nuclear weapons budget.

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"We do not expect that the path remaining to entry into force will be traveled quickly or easily. For our part, we will need the support of the Senate and the American people in order to move ahead, but move ahead we will, because we know that the CTBT [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty] will benefit the security of the United States and that of the world."

-- **Ellen Tauscher**, US Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, speaking at the CTBT Article XIV Conference in New York City on September 23, 2011.

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## Editorial Team

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