

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

Reflections on the Cuban Missile Crisis at Fifty

by David Krieger

Fifty years ago this month, the world teetered on the precipice of a nuclear war between the US and Soviet Union during the 13-day Cuban Missile Crisis. We were fortunate to have survived that crisis, thanks largely to the restraint shown by President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev.

Now, fifty years later, there is no immediate crisis such as that in 1962 over Soviet nuclear-armed missiles being placed in Cuba. There are, however, still some 19,000 nuclear weapons in the arsenals of nine nuclear-armed nations: the US, Russia, UK, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea. Approximately 95 percent of these weapons are in the arsenals of the US and Russia. Some 2,000 of them are kept in a state of high alert, ready to be immediately launched upon an order to do so at any moment of any day or night.

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

Fifty Years After the Cuban Missile Crisis: Time to Stop Bluffing at Nuclear Poker

by Martin Hellman

Fifty years ago, the Cuban Missile Crisis had us teetering precariously on the edge of the nuclear abyss. Could it happen again today? Most think not – if they think about it at all. This paper shows that society's complacency is ill-founded, and that we are still bluffing in a deadly game of nuclear poker. We run an unacceptably high risk of our bluff again being called and finding ourselves, once more, teetering on the brink of the abyss.

Each individual risk may be small, but taken together over an extended period of time, the risk becomes unacceptably high. Even if nuclear deterrence could be expected to work for 500 years before we destroy ourselves, a child born today would have roughly one chance in six of being killed by a nuclear weapon over his or her 80-year expected lifetime – equivalent to playing Russian roulette with a six-chambered revolver pointed at the child's head.

If we continue to bluff at nuclear poker, we automatically subject each new generation to a round of nuclear roulette. After fifty years, it is high time we stopped playing those deadly games and started creating true national security.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

Bruce Blair Sees New Nuclear Dangers, Dilemmas

by Robert Kazel

In a wide-ranging interview to mark the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, Bruce Blair, a former nuclear missile launch control officer and the co-founder of the group Global Zero, talked exclusively to NAPF about current nuclear perils facing all nations, and how certain risks have receded, grown, or changed over the past half century.

Dr. Blair addresses issues including high-alert nuclear weapons, a U.S. - China conflict, the history of U.S. arms control treaties, the modernization of U.S. nuclear forces, and his transformation to believing that the abolition of nuclear weapons is the only way to ensure national and global security.

To read the full interview, [click here](#).

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

Militarizing Nuclear Security

Rep. Mike Turner (R-OH), chairman of the House Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee, has unveiled a bill that seeks to militarize security at nuclear weapons production sites. Turner's legislation proposes shifting security responsibility from the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration to the U.S. military. According to Turner, "Our military has the capabilities, training and cultural mindset needed to secure the nation's most powerful weapons." Turner's legislation was largely triggered by an incident in July, in which an 82-year-old nun and two other peace activists infiltrated the Y-12 National Security Complex in Tennessee.

The legislation faces several road blocks, however. The biggest obstacle is a law known as the Posse Comitatus Act. Passed in 1878 during the Reconstruction era, the law constrains U.S. armed forces from working on U.S. soil to enforce domestic law.

Guarino, Douglas, "[Plan to Militarize Nuclear Security Could Face Legal Obstacles, Critics Say](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, September 26, 2012.

Congress Cuts Funding for New Plutonium Pit Facility

On September 22, funding for a new nuclear bomb plant at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico was terminated by a Continuing Resolution passed by Congress and signed by President Obama. The envisioned nuclear bomb plant, called the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) Nuclear Facility, would have given the United States the capacity to produce 80 plutonium pits for nuclear weapons each year. In a review conducted by the Government Accountability Office, the CMRR's estimated cost was found to run between \$4 to \$6 billion - nearly six times more than the initial price tag.

Many local and national groups, including the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, worked to stop this facility from being built. While there appears to be no funding currently in the pipeline for the CMRR, it could potentially resurface at any time.

Young, Stephen, "[The CMRR: Not Dead Yet](#)," *All Things Nuclear*, September 25, 2012.

U.S. to Allow New Zealand Ships to Dock

The U.S. has lifted a ban that forbade New Zealand naval ships from docking at U.S. bases. The ban was imposed in 1984 in retaliation for New Zealand's nuclear-free policy. New Zealand restricts U.S. ships that carry nuclear weapons or are nuclear-powered from entering New Zealand waters and ports.

Whether New Zealand will reciprocate the gesture by easing its anti-nuclear law toward the U.S. appears unlikely, however. "[The policy against nuclear ships] is in place and will remain in place," stated Jonathan Coleman, the Defense Secretary of New Zealand.

"[Ban on New Zealand Navy Ship Visits to US Ports Lifted](#)," *RTT News*, September 21, 2012.

Nuclear Disarmament

Mongolia Recognized as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone

On September 17, Mongolia was officially recognized as a single-state nuclear weapon-free zone. A declaration pledging "to respect the nuclear weapon-free status of Mongolia and not to contribute to any act that would violate it" was signed by the UN ambassadors for the United States, the United Kingdom, China, France and Russia - the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Mongolia has identified itself as a non-nuclear weapon territory for the past 20 years. However, because it is physically landlocked between Russian and China, the country was prevented from joining a regional nuclear weapon-free zone. The recent declaration was "tantamount to recognition of Mongolia's neutrality in nuclear powers' possible power politics or designs," stated Jargalsaikhan Enkhsaikhan, Mongolia's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

["Major Powers Recognize Mongolia as Nuclear Weapons Free," Agence France Presse, September 17, 2012](#)

Israel Rejects Plan for Conference on Nuclear-Free Middle East

A plan to hold a conference about establishing a Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone has been met with strong opposition by Israel. The conference, which has support from the Obama administration and many countries around the world, is to take place in Helsinki, Finland, sometime in late 2012 or early 2013.

Shaul Horev, director of the Israeli Nuclear Energy Committee reporting directly to Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, expressed his sentiments against the conference at the 56th general convention of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. He stated that Israel would not partake in a nuclear weapon-free Middle East due to the "volatile and hostile situation" in the region. Horev also stated that Israel would agree to nuclear demilitarization only after the establishment of peace in the Middle East, not through "external coercion."

Oren, Amir, ["Israel Rejects U.S.-Backed Arab Plan for Conference on Nuclear-Free Mideast," Haaretz, September 20, 2012.](#)

Nuclear Insanity

Exxon to Drill for Oil in Nuclear Waste-Infested Waters

Exxon Mobil and its Russian partner, Rosneft, are taking steps to begin drilling in the Kara Sea, a remote body of water north of Siberia in the Arctic Ocean. The Arctic seabed is next to the location where the Soviet navy dumped its nuclear reactors along with 17,000 containers of radioactive waste over the span of 25 years. Even more dangerously, a K-27 submarine with a nuclear reactor that was discarded by the Soviet navy in 1981 lies at the bottom of the sea. Although there is currently no sign of increased radiation from the submarine, Norwegian and Russian scientists are worried that corrosion of the submarine will damage its nuclear reactor and lead to radioactive releases.

Exxon Mobil and Rosneft issued statements assuring that ecological protection norms will be followed, but Greenpeace members and other activists are preparing to campaign against the Arctic drilling. They maintain that the region should be protected from any risk of spills and that the focus should be on safely retrieving the nuclear waste already in the sea.

Gismatullin, Eduard, "[Arctic Oil Near Soviet Toxic Waste in Exxon-Rosneft Plan](#)," *Bloomberg Businessweek*, September 25, 2012.

Nuclear Testing

U.S. Announces Numerous Nuclear Tests

The U.S. has announced the completion of nuclear weapons tests at the Nevada Test Site (now known as the Nevada National Security Site) and Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico. The tests did not involve full-scale nuclear detonations; those types of tests have not been conducted since President George H.W. Bush declared a moratorium on U.S. full-scale nuclear testing in 1992.

The test in Nevada took place in September at the Joint Actinide Shock Physics Experimental Research (JASPER) Facility. It was the 100th experiment at JASPER conducted by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). According to NNSA, scientists use data from the tests to determine how plutonium would react under specific pressures, temperatures and strain-rates.

The tests at Sandia Lab used the "Z Machine" to mimic the fusion reactions of nuclear warheads, which allows scientists to analyze plutonium reactions under conditions similar to those of a detonating nuclear bomb.

Kazumi Matsui, President of Mayors for Peace, wrote a [letter of protest](#) to President Barack Obama. He wrote, "These repeated tests compel us to believe that the U.S. intends to cling to its nuclear stockpile indefinitely. Such actions are completely unacceptable...."

"JASPER Celebrates 100th Shot at NNSS," *National Nuclear Security Administration*, September 26, 2012.

["U.S. Completes Sixth Nonexplosive Plutonium Trial](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, September 25, 2012.

War and Peace

Netanyahu Calls for Red Line on Iran at UN General Assembly

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a speech to the United Nations General Assembly in which he called for a "clear red line" to be drawn to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. He said, "Red lines don't lead to war; red lines prevent war."

Israel, the only country in the Middle East that has nuclear weapons, believes that Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons capability. All known intelligence reports say that Iran ceased pursuit of nuclear weapons in 2003.

["Netanyahu Calls for 'Clear Red Line' on Iranian Nuclear Program](#)," *Reuters*, September 27, 2012.

Resources

Practical Steps to Complete Nuclear Disarmament

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) has published a new briefing paper entitled "Disarming Trident: A Practical Guide to De-Activating and Dismantling the Trident Nuclear Weapon System." The report explains that disarming Trident, the UK's submarine-based nuclear weapons system, is not an impossible task. The report outlines how the process can be achieved in eight specific phases over four years.

To read the full report, [click here](#).

Nuclear Weapons Issues in the UN General Assembly

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has published a report by Yuki Zaitso, a 2012 NAPF summer intern, which looks at votes by key countries on nuclear-related resolutions in the United Nations General Assembly from 2001 - 2011. The report examines votes on select nuclear weapons issues by the nine countries that possess nuclear weapons (United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea), as well as Iran and Japan.

This report makes it easy to compare these countries' positions on specific issues and also maps how each country's position toward the issues has changed over time.

To read the full report, [click here](#).

Commit Universities to Peace

The International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility (INES) and the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA) have published a new report entitled "Commit Universities to Peace: Yes to Civil Clauses."

The report provides information on the military exploitation of science, on the responsibility of science to serve society, and the demand for a peaceful orientation of universities. The collection of articles also gives an overview of military research in Germany, Great Britain, and the U.S.

To read the full report, [click here](#).

The Path to Zero

Lawrence Wittner has published a review of *The Path to Zero: Dialogues on Nuclear Dangers*. Wittner writes, "In this outstanding book, Falk and Krieger address with great eloquence a broad range of issues, including nuclear weapons dangers, nuclear power, international law, the strength of militarism, public apathy, nuclear proliferation, nuclear arms control, and nuclear disarmament."

To read the full review and purchase a copy of the book, [click here](#).

Foundation Activities

NAPF Releases New Video on Nuclear Famine

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation recently launched its new three-minute video entitled "Nuclear Famine." The video details the catastrophic global consequences of even a "limited" regional nuclear war on the other side of the planet.

To watch the three-minute animated video and learn more about nuclear famine, [click here](#).

Standing Together for Our Common Future

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will honor Senator Tony de Brum of the Marshall Islands with its 2012 Distinguished Peace Leadership Award on October 21 in Santa Barbara, California.

Senator de Brum has worked tirelessly for peace and justice on behalf of his country. He and his fellow Marshall Islanders seek a peaceful world, free of nuclear weapons. They have directly experienced the impact of 67 powerful nuclear weapon tests – *the equivalent explosive power of one-and-a-half Hiroshima bombs daily for 12 years*. They know first-hand about the tragic effects of a world that uses and maintains nuclear weapon systems and how we as citizens of the world can make an impact to end the nuclear-weapon threats that confront us all.

The [Evening for Peace](#) is the Foundation's principal fundraising event. It furthers our mission by shining a light on peace leadership and raising awareness and support for important education and advocacy work. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available [online](#) or by calling (805) 965-3443.

NAPF Statement to the UN Human Rights Council

On September 13, Christian N. Ciobanu, NAPF's Geneva representative, delivered a statement at the 21st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. The statement called on the United States to respect the human rights of Marshall Islanders who continue to be adversely affected by U.S. atmospheric nuclear weapons tests conducted between 1946 and 1958 on their territory.

In his supplementary written statement, Mr. Ciobanu said, "Fallout and bioaccumulation in the food chain has forced residents of a number of severely contaminated atolls to leave their home islands, effectively becoming nomads in their nation."

To read the full statement, [click here](#).

War Does Not Bring Peace

NAPF Peace Leadership Program Director Paul K. Chappell recently appeared as a guest on the nationally-syndicated David Pakman Show. Paul discussed his new book *Peaceful Revolution* and explained the theories that underlie his work with NAPF's Peace Leadership Program. [Click here](#) to see the full ten-minute clip of Paul's appearance on the David Pakman Show.

Paul will be traveling around the United States throughout the fall giving lectures and workshops on peace leadership. [Click here](#) to see his schedule.

Quotes

"If there was going to be a new park, it should serve as a solemn monument to Japanese American friendship that rose from the ashes and the worldwide work for nuclear disarmament that continues to this day, rather than a celebration of a technology that has brought such destruction to the world. Failure to recognize this dimension, even in its first iteration, really is a significant injustice."

-- **Rep. Dennis Kucinich** (D-OH), speaking about the failed bill to create a National Park to commemorate the Manhattan Project. Rep. Kucinich's full remarks on the issue are available [here](#).

"I'm grateful to him (Romney) for formulating his stance so clearly because he has once again proven the correctness of our approach to missile defense problems. The most important thing for us is that even if he doesn't win now, he or a person with similar views may come to power in four years. We must take that into consideration while dealing with security issues for a long perspective."

-- Russian President **Vladimir Putin**, referring to Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's comment that Russia is the United States' "number one geopolitical foe."

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