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NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Features

Can We Change Our Thinking?

by David Krieger

I want to return to what may seem an old theme, but one that remains critically important. More than fifty years ago, Albert Einstein warned, "The splitting of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking, and thus we drift toward unparalleled catastrophe." I would like to explore what Einstein meant in reference to changing our "modes of thinking."

I believe Einstein was referring to humankind's continued reliance on force as a means of settling differences as the old way of thinking. He believed that in the Nuclear Age reliance on force was pushing us toward catastrophe. Einstein's warning was a recognition that with the advent of nuclear weapons, the use of force – a long-standing currency in the international system – placed not only countries but civilization and even humanity itself at risk, making force as a means of resolving disputes between nations too dangerous to be acceptable. If we are to move away from reliance on force to resolve conflicts, we must substitute something else in its place. What must take the place of threat or use of force is honest diplomacy, a willingness to engage in continuous dialogue with the goal of resolving even major differences between nations. That was the purpose for which the United Nations was created in June 1945, less than a month before the first test of an atomic weapon by the United States.

Read the Full Article:
www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2006/10/26_krieger_thinking.htm

North Korea's Nuclear Test: Turning Crisis into Opportunity

by David Krieger

To gain perspective on the North Korean nuclear test on October 9th, a global overview is helpful. Globally, there have been more than 2,000 nuclear tests since the inception of the Nuclear Age. The United States has conducted 1054 nuclear weapons tests, including 331 atmospheric tests. India and Pakistan joined the nuclear club in 1998 with multiple nuclear tests, and received much international condemnation. Today, however, the Bush administration wants to change the US non-proliferation laws as well as international agreements in order to provide India with nuclear technology and materials. The Bush administration is also silent on Israel's nuclear arsenal.

Clearly, the Bush administration does not treat nuclear weapons as the problem, but rather specific regimes that might possess them – acceptable for some countries, but not for others. In adopting this posture, the US promotes an untenable nuclear double standard. Countries like North Korea and Iran, having been branded as part of the "Axis of Evil" and having seen what happened to the regime in Iraq at the hands of the US, are encouraged to develop nuclear weapons if only to prevent US aggression against them.

Read the Full Article:
www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2006/10/17_krieger_korea.htm

Is There a Reason to Be Concerned about War with Iran?

by Dave Dionisi

A first step would be for President Bush to acknowledge that the US was wrong to overthrow Iran's democratically elected government in 1953. Regardless of what President Bush elects to do, we must choose hope and work to prevent war. History has shown us that a peaceful future is possible. In 1962 the US and the Soviet Union were on the brink of nuclear war and yet the Cuban Missile Crisis was solved without war.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. said "We still have a choice today: nonviolent co-existence or violent co-annihilation. History will record the choice we made. It is still not too late to make the proper choice. If we decide to become a moral power we will be able to transform the jangling discords of this world into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. If we make the wise decision we will be able to transform our pending cosmic elegy into a creative psalm of peace. This will be a glorious day. In reaching it, we can fulfill the noblest of American dreams."

Read the Full Article:
www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2006/10/23_Dionisi_iran.htm

Nuclear Testing

North Korea Has Enough Plutonium for Multiple Bombs

South Korea's Defense Ministry has reported that North Korea is believed to have a stockpile of 110 pounds of plutonium.

In a report leaked to the press on 27 October, the Defense Ministry stated that North Korea had enough plutonium to build six or seven nuclear weapons and 28 jet bombers that could be used to carry a nuclear bomb.

This report was presented the day after North Korea conducted its first ever nuclear weapons test. In the past few weeks, Pyongyang has been rebuked by the international community for its actions. The report also claimed that North Korea's motives behind the test were to compensate for the failure of missile tests conducted earlier this year.

Most recently, many suspect that North Korean scientists are developing nuclear missile capabilities by integrating nuclear and missile technology. South Korean officials think that Pyongyang is still a few years away from this goal.

Recently, nuclear experts have expressed fears that Pyongyang's test and technology development could spark an arms race in South East Asia.

Sources: "North Korea could return to nuclear talks, Putin says," *Global Security Network*, 26 October 2006. "North Korea may have up to 50kg of plutonium," *Agence France-Presse*, 26 October 2006.

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

NNSA to Revamp Nuclear Weapons Complex

The legacy left by the Clinton Administration's 1994 Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) was the multi-billion-dollar Stockpile Stewardship Program (SSP). Now, in response to the Bush administration's 2001 Nuclear Posture Review, nuclear warriors are hoping to establish their presence for decades to come by moving beyond the SSP. In July 2005, the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (SEAB) recommended a Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) to build a completely new group of nuclear weapons. Other information about the RRW has been released in a vision entitled Complex 2030, which seeks to ensure the longevity of the US nuclear weapons complex.

After a number of security crises that threatened the legitimacy of the labs, NNSA officials are looking for a way to bring in new money to the labs and their contractors. As part of a feasibility study for building new weapons under the RRW, teams from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) will deliver competing weapons designs that will likely address environmental and long-term stockpile maintenance concerns. There has been notable criticism from officials inside the NNSA and the national labs, who have recognized that the RRW and Complex 2030 don't serve a military or strategic need.

On October 19, NNSA released a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a statement that would propose alternatives to transform the nuclear complex. After public hearings that begin this month and a public comment period that will begin in January, NNSA will release a draft document in the summer of 2007. In the spring of 2008, NNSA will release a final document, and a decision will be made by fall of 2008.

Building new nuclear weapons would send the wrong message to other countries. Even though the US argues that RRW and Complex 2030 would reduce the total number of US warheads, there would be a time where three different lines of warheads would exist, which would significantly expand the number of warheads they have today. The programs would undermine the intent of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which is one of the only international agreements that limit the spread of nuclear weapons.

Source: "NNSA releases notice of intent for the Complex 2030 environmental impact statement," *Student Operated Press*, 24 October 2006.

New Controversial Space Policy Released

Arms control experts are concerned that the Bush administration's new National Space Policy is opening the door for the development of space weapons.

The Policy, which was released at 5 p.m. on 13 October, is the first revision of US space policy in ten years. Among its key declarations, it restates the importance of space for US interests, "freedom of action in space is as important to the US as air and power and sea power." It rejects arms control agreements in space by arguing that such agreements could limit US flexibility. The document also states that the US has the right to deny space access to any party that does not comply with US interests.

A Bush administration official stated that "this policy is not about developing or deploying weapons in space." Despite the denial, many are concerned that this is a precursor to weapons development. Administration officials have also said that no new arms control agreements are needed for space because there is no arms race in space right now.

Michael Krepon, cofounder of the Henry L. Stimson Center, stated "the policy changes will reinforce international suspicions that the US may seek to develop, test and deploy space weapons. Concerns are amplified by the administration's refusal to enter negotiations or even less formal discussions on the subject."

During a recent United Nations vote on whether to ban space-based weapons, 160 nations voted in favor of such a ban. The United States was the only nation that opposed the ban.

Source: Kaufman, Marc, "Bush sets defense as space priority," *Washington Post*, 18 October 2006.

Nuclear Proliferation

Japanese Officials Question Nuclear Policy

On 15 October 2006, Shinzo Abe, the newly elected prime minister of Japan, declared that Japan was committed to rejecting and never possessing nuclear weapons.

These comments came in the wake of Foreign Minister Taro Aso's comments to a parliamentary committee that Japan should begin debating developing nuclear weapons.

This debate is particularly important because of Japan's nuclear infrastructure and history. Japan currently possesses all of the components to produce nuclear weapons. They are actively reprocessing uranium. They have large stockpiles of plutonium. They could become a nuclear power in a short timeframe. It is only the will of the Japanese people that prevents development from occurring. Additionally, Japan has long opposed the development of nuclear weapons because it is the only country to have had nuclear weapons used against its cities in wartime. In 1945, 210,000 people were killed when nuclear bombs were detonated over the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Sources: Krauthammer, Charles, "World War II is over," *Washington Post*, 20 October 2006. McCurry, Justin, "Abe vows Japan will not go nuclear," *Guardian*, 10 October 2006.

Iran Close to Enriching Uranium

As the world focuses its attention on North Korea, Iran has taken a step closer to enriching uranium. On 23 October, Mohammed El Baradei, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, stated that Iranian technicians had assembled 164 centrifuges and they are days away from being able to begin the enrichment process. Many think that by going forward with enrichment, Iran is sending a message of defiance to the United Nations.

Most experts agree that Iran is at least four years away from having enough material to build a nuclear weapon. However, all parties are gradually running out of time since negotiation efforts have stalled. Iran is willing to meet with China, Europe, Russia and the United States, but is not willing to suspend its nuclear program. The US refuses to meet with Iran until this suspension occurs.

Throughout October, the United Nations Security Council has been debating what sanctions to impose on Iran for not stopping its uranium enrichment program. European officials have been opposed to the tough sanctions proposed by the US. The European's favor a more lenient resolution, which would most likely involve a trade ban on nuclear and missile technology with an exception for a preexisting nuclear deal between Russia and Iran.

Source: Linzer, Dafna, "IAEA head: Iran close to enriching uranium," *Washington Post*, 24 October 2006.

Weapons Proliferation

DOE Plans for Bio-weapons Facility at Livermore Laboratory Halted

On 16 October, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals delayed the Department of Energy's (DOE) plans to build and operate a bio-warfare research facility at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in California.

In its ruling, the court said the environmental study that the DOE conducted to determine the impact of building a facility in this location was inadequate. Before building the lab, the DOE must now conduct a study of terrorism risks and possibly a full environmental impact statement. The court also ruled that the DOE had acted illegally by not conducting a study before moving ahead with project.

The debate over this facility has been ongoing over the last three years. Activist groups are concerned that placing this facility at Lawrence Livermore would threaten California's agricultural production and the health of millions of people who live nearby.

Originally, two advanced bio-warfare agent research facilities were planned for Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore laboratories. These facilities would contain some of the most deadly and easily transmitted diseases on the earth. After a lawsuit was filed on behalf of local activist organizations, the Los Alamos plans were dropped. If the DOE goes through with their plans, this will be the first time that a bio-warfare agent research lab would be operated inside a US nuclear laboratory.

Source: Press Release, "Community groups hail victory, court grants demand for environmental review before bio-warfare agent research facility opens at Livermore Lab," 16 October 2006.

Nuclear Energy and Waste

British Company Fined for Nuclear Reactor Leak

On 17 October, British courts levied a fine against one of the United Kingdom's central nuclear facilities. Citing significant safety lapses, the court fined the parent company, Sellafield, the equivalent of \$950,000. In April 2006, 83,000 tons of acids containing 20 tons of uranium and 352 pounds of plutonium were accidentally released into a sealed concrete holding through a broken pipe. The fine was placed after the company pled guilty to three counts of breaching their license.

Currently, there is no evidence of harm to workers or the public from the release. Greenpeace has stated that the leak shows "sheer ineptitude" on the part of the nuclear industry. Since the company is owned by the government, taxpayers will ultimately be responsible for paying the fine.

Source: Wilson, James, "Sellafield criticized on safety as BNG fined," *Financial Times*, 17 October 2006.

Foundation Activities

23rd Annual Evening for Peace

On October 28th, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation hosted its 23rd Annual Evening for Peace. Human Rights campaigner Bianca Jagger received the Foundation's World Citizenship Award, and former Maryknoll priest and long-time peace activist Blase Bonpane received the Foundation's Distinguished Peace Leadership Award. Also featured was the Festival de Cannes Award-winning film *B is for Bomb*. Some 300 people attended the event, including more than 50 youth. The evening finished with speeches from the award recipients, who reflected on their years of work and commitment to peace and justice.

2006 Think Outside the Bomb Conference, New York

November 4-5, young people from throughout the northeast will converge at Pace University to organize for a nuclear-free world. The conference is being sponsored by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Educators for Social Responsibility (ESR) Metropolitan Area, Abolition 2000 New York, Peace Boat US, Americans for Informed Democracy, Student Peace Action Network (SPAN), Project Pericles Pace University and People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE). The conference will focus on nuclear disarmament, nuclear energy and the hazards of the nuclear fuel cycle, as well as the connections between these issues.

Attendees will leave the conference with new insights, knowledge and inspiration, as well as an array of organizing resources and practical hands-on skills to empower them to do the day-to-day work of creating a more peaceful and secure planet. There is an exciting list of speakers, including Jackie Cabasso of Western States Legal Foundation; John Burroughs of the Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy; author and professor Karl Grossman; and director of Peace Boat US, Ryo Ijichi.

Foundation President to Speak at Cal Poly Ahimsa Center

David Krieger, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation President, will deliver the Savita and Manilal Mehta Public Lecture "Building Global Peace in the Nuclear Age." The event is sponsored by the Ahimsa Center for Nonviolence in Thought and Action at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. David will present the case to eliminate nuclear weapons and talk about what each of us can do to help prevent future Hiroshimas and Nagasakis. The event will be Sunday, November 12; the lecture will be from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., followed by a reception. Pre-registration is required by November 3. To register, send an email to tsethia@csupomona.edu.

Foundation to Participate in UN Day 2006

Dr. Richard Falk, Board Chair and Distinguished Visiting Professor of Global Studies at UCSB, will be a panelist at the United Nations Day 2006 program "Preventable Genocide: Who Speaks for Humanity?" Falk will be joined by the Honorable Robert Muller, Foundation Advisor and Former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations as well as Dr. Manoutchehr Eskandari-Qajar, Professor of Political Science at

SBCC; Marie Clarke Brill, Acting Co-Executive Director of Africa Action; and David Morris, Professor of History at SBCC. The program will be held at Fé Bland Auditorium, SBCC West Campus. Exhibitors begin at 9 a.m. and the program begins at 10 a.m.

For more information, visit:
www.unasb.org.

National Forum against Any Form of Violence and Discrimination

On November 16th and 17th, 2006 the National Forum Against Any Form of Violence and Discrimination (FNEVD) will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Forum will be held at the National University of Technology. Among the most important themes to be discussed are Nuclear Disarmament and Environmental Issues. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and Freedom From War will be represented by NAF's Director for Latin America and FFW's International President, Ruben Arvizu.

For more information and inscriptions, visit:
www.forocontralaviolencia.org.

Resources

Middle Powers Initiative Statement on North Korea

The Middle Powers Initiative (MPI) has released a statement on the recent North Korean nuclear test. The Foundation is a founding member of the Middle Powers Initiative, a coalition of eight international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) seeking the cooperation of middle power governments and civil society in pursuit of a treaty eliminating nuclear weapons worldwide. The statement calls for the United States to take the lead in one-on-one diplomacy with North Korea and for the ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. The world would be much safer, the statement argues, in engaging North Korea and lowering the currency of nuclear weapons.

To read the statement, visit:
www.gsinsitute.org/mpii/docs/MPI_Korea_Statement.pdf

NuclearFiles Timeline Updated

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's award winning website, NuclearFiles, has a new and updated timeline. NuclearFiles is a comprehensive resource for access to primary source documents, historical and background information and analysis of nuclear issues.

The website also features a section for educators that includes sample syllabi, study guides and recommended resources for the classroom. NuclearFiles' numerous awards include the Academic Info Award and the Critical Mass Award and has been featured as a *USA Today* Site of the Day.

To view NuclearFiles, visit:
www.nuclearfiles.org

2006 Nagasaki Appeal

The city of Nagasaki, Japan hosted the 3rd Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons on October 21-23, 2006. The Assembly issued an Appeal to conclude the event. David Krieger, Foundation President, participated on the drafting committee of the Nagasaki Appeal 2006. The final sentence in the Appeal stated, "We call upon citizens everywhere to add their voices to those of the Hibakusha [atomic bomb survivors] in calling for the total elimination of nuclear weapons before these weapons destroy our cities, our countries and civilization itself."

To read the Appeal in English or Spanish, visit:
www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2006/10/23_nagasaki_nagasaki.htm

Book on UN Sanctions of Iraq Released in English

Hans von Sponeck has recently published an English version of a book that comprehensively reviews United Nations sanctions in Iraq. Von Sponeck is the former UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq who became famous when he resigned in 2000 in protest over sanctions. The book, *Another Kind of War - The UN Sanctions Regime in Iraq*, is available through Berghahn, ISBN 1-83545-222-4. The book has received wide acclaim from notable figures including Noam Chomsky.

For more information visit the publisher's website:
www.berghahnbooks.com/title.php?rowtag=SponeckDifferent

Gandhi and Beyond: Nonviolence for an Age of Terrorism

Gandhi and Beyond: Nonviolence for an Age of Terrorism, has been recently published. David Cortright, the book's author, is the president of the Fourth Freedom Forum and a professor at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. By tracing non-violent social movements through the 20th century, starting with Gandhi, Cortright argues that today's age of terrorism requires a renewed commitment for principled non-violence. The book has been Endorsed by Jim Wallis and Rajmohan Gandhi, and nominated by the American Library Association as a CHOICE outstanding book for 2006. *Gandhi and Beyond* is currently available in online bookstores or you can order it from Paradigm Publishers at 800-887-1591.

Stanley Foundation Report on Nuclear Weapons, Energy and Nonproliferation

A new report "Nuclear Weapons, Energy, and Nonproliferation: Pressures on the Global Community" has been released by the Stanley Foundation. The Stanley Foundation emphasizes multilateral solutions to global problems. The report summarizes the discussions and recommendations of UN diplomats and nuclear policy experts. In addition to identifying problems associated with the existing nuclear regime, the report lists a number of confidence-building measures that include security assurances, removing NATO weapons from Europe, the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and expanding the power and scope of Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones.

To read the report, visit:
www.stanleyfoundation.org/reports/UNND06.pdf

Quotable

"It was the place that made us feel good during the Cold War."

William Odom, United States Lieutenant General, reminiscing on NORAD's Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Base which is beginning significant cutbacks.

"For somebody that is addicted to meth to even think about stealing lab secrets and selling them is just totally ludicrous. You won't find any addicted methamphetamines user out there that could spell plutonium."

Justin Stone, Los Alamos alleged drug dealer, responding to potential criminal charges after classified documents were found on computer jump drives in his residence during a drug raid.

Editorial Team

- Nickolas Roth
- David Krieger
- Andrew Culp