

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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Perspectives

Nuclear Dangers and Challenges to a New Nuclear Policy

by David Krieger

It is worthwhile asking the question: What are nuclear weapons? In some respects the answer to this question may seem obvious, but this is not necessarily the case. To some, nuclear weapons are a scientific achievement that bestows prestige. This is the view that has been taken by each of the nuclear weapons states, with the exception of Israel. Most recently, this perspective was on display when India and Pakistan conducted nuclear tests in 1998.

To read more, visit: www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/10/17_krieger_nuclear_dangers.php

US Nuclear Accidents: Silly Promises, Serious Consequences

by Rick Wayman

Our nation's nuclear weapons arsenal suffered yet another frightening mishap a few weeks ago. Six nuclear armed cruise missiles were "accidentally" strapped to the wing of a B-52 bomber and flown across the country from North Dakota to Louisiana, leaving the weapons unsecured and unaccounted-for over a 36 period.

To read more, visit: www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/10/23_wayman_silly_promises.php

Protest Against the Reliable Replacement Warhead

by Lawrence S. Wittner

Although Congress has been dealing with the Bush administration's proposal to develop the reliable replacement warhead (RRW) for much of 2007, it's remarkable that the new weapon, a hydrogen bomb attracted little public protest or even public attention.

After all, for years opinion polls have reported that an overwhelming majority of Americans favor nuclear disarmament. A July 2007 poll by the Simons Foundation of Canada found that 82.3 percent of Americans backed either the total elimination or a reduction of nuclear weapons in the world. Only 3 percent favor developing new nuclear weapons.

To read more, visit: www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2007/10/31_wittner_protest_rrw.php

Historical Perspectives

US Planned Nuclear Poison Attacks

Recently released records show the US Army secretly considered using radioactive poison for assassinations.

A secret memo issued in December 1948 described looking at using radioactive materials in order to assassinate "important individuals, such as military or civilian leaders."

The program, which was part of the military's research on a "new concept of warfare," also considered radioactive materials to contaminate enemy land or attack military bases.

No specific individuals were mentioned as possible targets. Additionally, the documents gave no indication if this type of assassination was ever attempted by the United States.

“US Planned Nuclear Poison Attacks,” *The Times*, October 9, 2007.

Man Who Dropped Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima Dies

Paul Tibbets, the man who dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima in 1945, has died at the age of 92. He was the pilot and commander of the Enola Gay, the infamous plane whose nuclear cargo immediately killed 70,000-100,000 people.

Tibbets had requested no funeral and no headstone, fearing it would provide his detractors with a place to protest, according to a long-time friend.

Over the years, Tibbets has made comments about his unique position as the first person to use a nuclear weapon against humans.

In a 2005 interview, he said, “We had feelings, but we had to put them in the background. We knew it was going to kill people right and left. But my one driving interest was to do the best job I could so that we could end the killing as quickly as possible.”

“I’m not proud that I killed 80,000 people, but I’m proud that I was able to start with nothing, plan it and have it work as perfectly as it did,” he said in a 1975 interview. “I sleep clearly every night.”

“Man Who Dropped Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima Dies at 92,” *Associated Press*, November 1, 2007.

Nuclear Proliferation

Bunker-Buster Request Prompts Iran Attack Fears

Some Democratic lawmakers have questioned whether a new Bush administration request for \$88 million to fit “bunker-busting” bombs to B-2 stealth bombers was part of preparations for an attack on Iran.

A Bush administration summary said the request was needed for “development of a Massive Ordnance Penetrator for the B-2 aircraft in response to an urgent operational need from theater commanders,” but no details. The Massive Ordnance Penetrator is a conventional bomb designed to destroy hardened or camouflaged targets.

“My assumption is that it is Iran, because you wouldn’t use them in Iraq, and I don’t know where you would use them in Afghanistan; it doesn’t have any weapons facilities underground that we know of,” said Rep. Moran, a Virginia Democrat who is on the House Appropriations Committee and intends to argue against the request.

Another Democrat, Rep. Jim McDermott of Washington, said the bunker-buster request worried him because of the rising tide of criticism of Iran coming from the Bush administration. Last week, Bush warned that nuclear-armed Iran could lead to World War Three.

Susan Cornwell, "Bunker-Buster Request Prompts Iran Attack Fears," *Reuters*, October 24, 2007.

IAEA Condemns Israeli Strike on Alleged Syrian Nuclear Facility

The head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, criticized Israel for attacking a suspicious Syrian site in September, saying the "bomb first and then ask questions later" move undermined global atomic monitoring work.

"That to me is very distressful because we have a system," Mohamed ElBaradei told CNN in an interview. "If countries have information that the country is working on a nuclear-related program, they should cooperate with us."

Israel has given no details on the target of the September 6 air strike. Syria denied having such a nuclear-related facility.

"IAEA Chief Criticizes Israel Over Syria Raid," *Reuters*, October 28, 2007.

Nuclear Insanity

India-Pakistan Nuclear War Could Kill One Billion

US medical expert Ira Helfand, co-founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility, concluded in a recent study that even a "limited" nuclear war between India and Pakistan could cause a billion deaths across the world.

Citing past studies, Helfand stated that a nuclear war would reduce the growing season in important grain-producing areas by 10 to 20 days. "Global grain stocks stand at 49 days, lower than at any point in the past five decades," he said, adding: "These stocks would not provide any significant reserve in the event of a sharp decline in production. We would see hoarding on a global scale."

He went on to say that the global death toll from a nuclear war in Asia "could exceed one billion from starvation alone." Food shortages could also trigger epidemics of cholera, typhus and other diseases, as in armed conflicts, which together could kill "hundreds of millions."

Dr. Helfand's study is available for download at: www.psr.org/site/DocServer/HelfandPaper.pdf?docID=2881

"Indo-Pak Nuclear War Could Cause One Billion Starvation Deaths," *Times of India*, October 4, 2007.

Missile Defense

US Defends European Missile Defense System

On October 18, the State Department said that even if Iran gave up its uranium enrichment program, the US still would not alter its plans for a missile defense system in Europe.

Apparently mis-speaking in Brussels, Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Fried said, "This (missile defense) is a threat-based system and we would be affected if Iran gave up its (uranium) enrichment and worked the international community, and had a different approach to things."

Clarifying Fried's comments, a State Department spokesperson said that the only circumstance in which US would reexamine its missile defense shield would occur if there were a change in the overall threat by Iran, which includes its missile capability.

The State Department spokesperson said, "I think there has been a great deal of confusion and a great deal of misconstruing of remarks that may or may not have been made out in Brussels."

"The US position is clear -- there is a threat that exists from rogue states in terms of missiles, that includes missiles armed with conventional munitions as well as potentially missiles armed with nuclear and other WMD (weapons of mass destruction) agents," he said.

"I saw some interpretations that seem to say if Iran suspends its enrichment activities, there would be a suspension or a halt or a decision not to proceed with the US missile defense systems. That's simply not true," he said.

Russia has adamantly opposed installing 10 missile interceptors in Poland and tracking radar in the Czech Republic. Recently, President Vladimir Putin made comments alluding to the US questioning whether to install the missile shield. "The latest contacts with the Americans demonstrate that a certain change in the point of view is possible," he told Iranian media during a landmark visit to Tehran. "We will continue our dialogue."

"US Says No Missile Defense Review If Iran Drops Nuclear Program," *Agence France Presse*, October 2007.

Nuclear Energy and Waste

National Academy of Sciences Opposes Nuclear Reprocessing

On October 29, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) released a report urging President Bush to oppose the Department of Energy's proposed plan to resume nuclear waste reprocessing.

The proposed Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) is part of the Bush administration's push to dramatically expand the use of civilian nuclear power. GNEP, as planned, would involve several nations including the US and Russia, supplying reactor fuel and reprocessing the spent nuclear fuel for other nations.

The 17-member NAS panel concluded that the technology needed for GNEP has not been proved and will not be ready in time. It said that "significant technical and financial risks" would be involved in going ahead with such a plan. So far, Congress has been somewhat receptive to concerns about GNEP and has not given full funding or authorization for the program.

Commercial nuclear reprocessing was abandoned in the United States in the 1970s due to its exorbitant environmental risks and proliferation risks. The NAS panel stated that even if the program were to go forward as envisioned, it would not be ready in time to handle the more than 70,000 tons of commercial nuclear waste that is currently being stored on-site at reactors.

Josef Hebert, "Science Panel Calls for Bush to Dump Nuclear Waste Plan," *Detroit Free Press*, October 2007.

Resources

Global Public Opinion on Nuclear Weapons

The Simons Foundation, a strong supporter of a nuclear weapons-free world, recently published a study detailing public opinion on nuclear weapons in six countries: Britain, France, Italy, Germany, United States and Israel.

The report shows noticeable differences in the way global citizens perceive nuclear weapons based on answers to 15 questions, ranging from the use of nuclear weapons to ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

You can access a full copy of the survey online at www.angusreidstrategies.com/uploads/pages/pdfs/Simons%20Report.pdf

First Committee Monitor

Reaching Critical Will, a project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) publishes a weekly summary of the proceedings at the UN General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament. The 2007 First Committee took place from September 18-November 2.

You can read the First Committee Monitor online at: www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/FCM

2007 Global Fissile Material Report

This is the second report of the International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM). The IPFM analyzes the technical basis for practical and achievable policy initiatives to secure, consolidate, and reduce stockpiles of highly enriched uranium and plutonium.

These fissile materials are the key ingredients in nuclear weapons, and their control is critical to nuclear disarmament, halting the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and ensuring that terrorists do not acquire nuclear weapons.

You can read the report online at: www.ipfmlibrary.org/gfmr07.pdf

Foundation Activities

NAPF Youth Peace Leadership Award

One of Africa's most compelling campaigners for peace and children's rights will receive the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Youth Peace Leadership Award on November 10 during the UN Day Program at the Garvin Theatre at Santa Barbara City College. The program begins at 9:30 a.m.

Kimmie Weeks was only nine years old when civil war in Liberia left him gathering roots and leaves to eat because his family had no food. At one point, he was almost buried alive after his emaciated body had weakened by disease.

After this nightmarish experience of hunger, suffering and violence, he pledged to spend his life helping children. By the time he was 14, his work had helped to disarm 20,000 child soldiers in his home country. The Liberian government, under Charles Taylor, threatened to assassinate him. He fled to the United States but he did not stop working for children.

Now a graduate of Amherst College, Weeks leads Youth Action International, a nonprofit dedicated to rebuilding communities in war-torn Africa -- focusing on the construction of schools and playgrounds, creating business opportunities for women and children. In July, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (elected in 2005) bestowed Liberia's highest honor on Weeks, decorating him as Knight Grand Commander in the Humane Order of African Redemption.

Weeks will be the keynote speaker at the UN Day program. The event is called "Youth in Peril: From Child Soldiers to Street Gangs." Admission is free.

Those who have heard Kimmie Weeks address a crowd say he is an inspirational speaker -- a young man with passion and compassion.

Frank Kelly to Speak in Kansas City

On November 5, NAPF Senior Vice President Frank Kelly will speak at the Kansas City, MO Public Library on "Harry Truman – The President Who Shook the World." The event will be co-sponsored by the Kansas City Public Library and the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

President David Krieger to Read Selected Poetry

NAPF President David Krieger will read selections from his new poetry book *The Doves Flew High* on Saturday, November 10 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. The event is part of the Poetry Zone program at the Karpel Manuscript Library Museum, located at 21 West Anapamu St., Santa Barbara.

Quotes

Arnold Schwarzenegger

"If you Google 'global warming,' you will find 6,690,000 entries. If you Google 'Britney Spears,' you will find 2,490,000. If you Google 'nuclear disarmament,' you will get 116,000 entries. And if you Google 'nuclear annihilation,' you will get 17,400. Something is wrong with that picture."

-- California Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, in prepared remarks to the Hoover Institution's "Reykjavik II" conference.

Senator Hillary Clinton

“Neither North Korea nor Iran will change course as a result of what we do with our own nuclear weapons but taking dramatic steps to reduce our nuclear arsenal would build support for the coalitions we need to address the threat of nuclear proliferation and help the United States regain the moral high ground.”

-- Senator **Hillary Clinton** writing in the November/December issue of *Foreign Affairs*.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“It is no longer a choice, my friends, between violence and nonviolence. It is either nonviolence or nonexistence. And the alternative to disarmament, the alternative to a greater suspension of nuclear test alternative to strengthening the United Nations and thereby disarming the whole world, may well be a civilization plunged into the abyss of annihilation, and our earthly habitat would be transformed into an inferno that even the mind of Dante could not imagine.”

-- **Martin Luther King, Jr.**, “Remaining Awake Through A Great Revolution,” March 31, 1968.

George Arthur

“We are still undergoing what appears to be a never-ending federal experiment to see how much devastation can be endured by a people and a society from exposure to radiation in the air, in the water, in the mine, on the surface of the land. We are unwilling to be the subjects of that ongoing experiment any longer.”

-- **George Arthur**, representative of the Navajo Nation government, speaking at a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee meeting on the damage done by uranium mining.

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