

# THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

## Issue #136 - November 2008

The Sunflower is a monthly e-newsletter providing educational information on nuclear weapons abolition and other issues relating to global security. Help us spread the word and forward this to a friend.

Visit [www.wagingpeace.org/donate](http://www.wagingpeace.org/donate) to help sustain this valuable resource by making a donation.

To receive our free monthly e-newsletter subscribe at [www.wagingpeace.org/subscribe](http://www.wagingpeace.org/subscribe)

- Perspectives
  - Remembering Joseph Rotblat, Remembering Our Humanity by David Krieger
  - The United Nations and Security in a Nuclear Weapons-Free World by Ban Ki-moon
- US Nuclear Weapons Policy
  - US Again Votes Against De-Alerting Nuclear Arsenal
- Nuclear Proliferation
  - UN Secretary-General and US Defense Secretary Address Future of Nuclear Weapons
  - Pakistan Makes Nuclear Deal with China
- Nuclear Insanity
  - Transcript of British Doomsday Message Released
  - Fire in Nuclear Silo Goes Unnoticed for Five Days
- Missile Defense
  - Agency Head Says Europe-Based Missile Defense Should Continue
- Nuclear Energy and Waste
  - Economic Collapse Hits Nuclear Decommissioning Fund
- Resources
  - miniAtlas of Human Security
  - Project Ploughshares NPT Reporting
  - 2008 Global Fissile Material Report Now Available
- Foundation Activities
  - Appeal to the Next US President
  - Foundation Briefing Paper for the New President
  - Letter Promoting the Appeal in the New York Times
  - 25th Annual Evening for Peace
- Quotes

## Perspectives

## Remembering Joseph Rotblat, Remembering Our Humanity

by David Krieger

*November 4, 2008 marks the 100th anniversary of Joseph Rotblat's birth.*

Joseph Rotblat was one of the great men of our time. As a young physicist from Poland, Rotblat realized that it might be possible to create an atomic weapon and worried that the Germans might succeed in developing such a weapon before the Allied powers. Due to this realization and his belief that the Allied powers needed a deterrent to a possible Nazi bomb, Rotblat agreed to work during World War II on the British bomb project and then on the US Manhattan Project.

To read more, visit: [www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/10/28\\_krieger\\_remembering\\_rotblat.php](http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/10/28_krieger_remembering_rotblat.php).

---

## The United Nations and Security in a Nuclear Weapons-Free World

by Ban Ki-moon

One of my priorities as Secretary-General is to promote global goods and remedies to challenges that do not respect borders. A world free of nuclear weapons would be a global public good of the highest order, and will be the focus of my remarks today. I will speak mainly about nuclear weapons because of their unique dangers and the lack of any treaty outlawing them. But we must also work for a world free of all weapons of mass destruction.

To read more, visit: [www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/10/24\\_ban\\_un\\_nuclear.php](http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2008/10/24_ban_un_nuclear.php).

## US Nuclear Weapons Policy

### US Again Votes Against De-Alerting Nuclear Arsenal

At the United Nations General Assembly last month, a resolution was put forward by a coalition of countries seeking to reduce nuclear dangers by taking all nuclear weapons off of high-alert (quick-launch) status.

The resolution was approved by a vote of 134 to 3, with 32 abstentions. Countries voting to keep weapons on high-alert status were the United States, France and the United Kingdom.

The US and Russia maintain thousands of nuclear weapons on high-alert status, ready to be fired within moments of an order to do so. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, through its [Appeal](#) to the next US president, is calling on the US to work with other nations in de-alerting nuclear arsenals as one important step towards global nuclear disarmament.

## Nuclear Proliferation

### UN Secretary-General and US Defense Secretary Address Future of Nuclear Weapons

On October 24, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed the issue of security in a nuclear weapons-free world. Using his homeland of the Republic of Korea as an example, Ban explained the suffering and horror people go through with nuclear weapons in existence. He listed economic and environmental reasons for disarmament such as clean air, climate change, and opportunity costs that could be gained.

Ban went on to outline his five point proposal, which includes:

- Urging nuclear weapon states to fulfill the NPT obligation of undertaking negotiations on effective measures leading to nuclear disarmament;

- Encouraging Security Council members to discuss security issues about the disarmament process;
- Making new efforts to bring about the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and a verifiable fissile material cutoff treaty;
- Increasing the transparency of reports on nuclear weapons stockpiles issued by nuclear weapon states; and
- Taking complimentary measures such as eliminating all weapons of mass destruction (WMD), eliminating WMD terrorism, limiting trade on arms, and a space weapons ban.

United States Defense Secretary Robert Gates gave a speech on October 28 to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Gates argued for the necessity of the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program, which Congress has refused to fund.

Threatening a resumption of explosive nuclear testing if the RRW is not developed, Gates said, “There is absolutely no way we can maintain a credible deterrent and reduce the number of weapons in our stockpile without resorting to testing our stockpile or pursuing a modernization program.”

Secretary Gates also argued that the US must build a new generation of nuclear weapons through the RRW because the US is “the only declared nuclear power that is neither modernizing its nuclear arsenal nor has the capacity to produce a new nuclear warhead.”

Finally, Gates discounted any notion of a peaceful, nuclear weapons-free world by saying, “Try as we might, and hope as we will, the power of nuclear weapons and their strategic impact is a genie that cannot be put back in the bottle.”

Barnes, Julian, “Gates Calls for Modernization of US Nuclear Weapons,” *Los Angeles Times*, October 29, 2008.

Ban Ki-moon, “The United Nations and Security in a Nuclear Weapons-Free World,” Speech delivered to the East-West Institute on October 24, 2008.

---

## **Pakistan Makes Nuclear Deal with China**

On October 18, China announced a deal to provide Pakistan with two new nuclear power plants. The deal is widely suspected to be in retaliation for the controversial US-India nuclear deal, which was opposed by both China and Pakistan.

US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher reiterated the double standard implicit in the US-India nuclear deal. He said that the US is unwilling to discuss supplying Pakistan with nuclear energy. Boucher said the situation was “unique” with India and should not serve as a “model.”

The US was granted special approval by the Nuclear Suppliers Groups (NSG) to deal with India, which has not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). China, so far, has not sought similar approval to trade with Pakistan, which is also not a signatory of the NPT.

Ahmad, Munir, “China to Help Build Two Pakistan Nuclear Plants,” *Associated Press*, October 18, 2008.

## **Nuclear Insanity**

### **Transcript of British Doomsday Message Released**

The National Archives in Britain released a draft of a script written by officials as if Britain had been attacked during the Cold War. The BBC was meant to broadcast the message in the event of a nuclear attack.

The script offered advice such as staying inside, staying clear of lethal radioactive fallout, turning off gas and fuel, and conserving food and water. “You may die if you go outside,” the recording was supposed to also say, hoping to scare people

to stay inside their homes and remain safe.

Eventually, it was agreed that a recording would not be the ideal way to make such announcements. It is not clear whether tapes were ever made.

“Britain Planned Taped Messages After Nuclear War,” *Associated Press*, October 2, 2008.

---

## Fire in Nuclear Silo Goes Unnoticed for Five Days

A fire in a Minuteman III nuclear missile silo in Wyoming in May 2008 was not discovered by the Air Force for five days. The fire was not discovered immediately because launch crews monitor the silos remotely from control facilities. The Air Force claims that there was no danger of detonation or radiation release because of the fire.

The Air Force has admitted to a string of embarrassing failures in its nuclear weapon safeguarding over the past couple of years, including losing track of six nuclear weapons accidentally loaded onto a B-52 bomber and flown across the United States.

Problems revealed by the investigation into the silo fire, which was caused by a battery charger, include unclear installation instructions, quality assurance issues and the use of duct tape on cables.

One Minuteman III missile has an explosive yield of 330 kilotons, or about 30 times the bomb the US dropped on Hiroshima in August 1945.

Fire in a Titan missile silo caused one of the nation’s most serious nuclear mishaps in 1980. Flames ignited the Titan’s booster and blew the silo’s 750-ton blast door a quarter-mile away. Parts of the missile, including its nuclear warhead, were sent flying in the blast, which killed one and injured 20.

Roeder, Tom, “Silo Fire Casts Another Cloud Over US Nukes,” *Colorado Springs Gazette*, October 30, 2008.

## Missile Defense

### Agency Head Says Europe-Based Missile Defense Should Continue

The head of the US Missile Defense Agency, Lt. Gen. Henry Obering, believes the next president is likely to maintain the Bush administration’s effort to deploy missile defenses in Europe. Obering said that persuading either US presidential candidate to support the initiative is a “matter of better education and better information.”

Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) has expressed his support for deployment of an early warning radar system in the Czech Republic and 10 missile interceptors in Poland, according to the *EU Observer*. His opponent, Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL), however, has pledged to “shift federal resources away from an unproven missile defense system to proven technology.”

Obering said, “If you don’t have national security it won’t matter what your economy is doing because you won’t be able to protect your citizens and their jobs.”

The decision to put components of the system in the Czech Republic and Poland has caused deteriorating relations with Russia, which sees the system as a threat. There is significant opposition to the program in the Czech Republic. The Czech Parliament will vote on the issue after the new US president is elected.

“Next US President to Continue European Missile Defense Project, Agency Chief Says,” *Global Security Newswire*, October 30, 2008.

## Nuclear Energy and Waste

### Economic Collapse Hits Nuclear Decommissioning Fund

The troubled Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant took another hit recently when the value of its decommissioning fund dropped dramatically. Stephen Wark, of the Vermont Department of Public Service, warned that the fund's poor performance could impact the decision on whether to extend the plant's license beyond 2012.

"The performance of the fund is disturbing, and will likely be a large issue in the various cases concerning Vermont Yankee," Wark said. "Entergy [the owner of Vermont Yankee] will have to explain how they plan to meet their decommissioning obligations to Vermonters, given their reliance on market growth."

The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission estimates it will cost between \$280 million and \$612 million to decommission one nuclear reactor. However, Britain estimates it will cost at least \$165 billion to clean up its 19 nuclear reactors, an average of \$8.7 billion per reactor.

"Nuclear Decommissioning Fund Drops 10 Percent," *Boston Globe*, October 9, 2008.

## Resources

### miniAtlas of Human Security

The *miniAtlas of Human Security*, produced by the Human Security Report Project at Simon Fraser University, Canada, provides an at-a-glance illustrated guide to global and regional trends in human insecurity—focusing on wars, genocides, battle deaths, refugee flows and human rights abuses. The *miniAtlas* is available in English, French and Spanish.

To access the *miniAtlas*, visit: [www.miniatlasofhumansecurity.info/en/](http://www.miniatlasofhumansecurity.info/en/).

---

### Project Ploughshares NPT Reporting

Project Ploughshares (in Canada) has added a new resource page to its website on nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty reporting. Included on this site is their latest report, "Transparency and Accountability: NPT Reporting 2002 – 2007," which will be continually updated, as well as earlier reports and links to NPT reporting documents.

You can access the page at: [www.ploughshares.ca/abolish/NPTReporting.html](http://www.ploughshares.ca/abolish/NPTReporting.html).

---

### 2008 Global Fissile Material Report Now Available

In the 2008 Global Fissile Material Report, the International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM) has proposed key elements for a verifiable Fissile Material (Cutoff) Treaty. In addition to a ban on all future production of fissile material for weapons, the Report makes a case that the treaty should also address pre-existing stocks of fissile material held by nuclear weapons states. In particular, the proposed treaty would ban the use for weapons of fissile material that was once in weapons and has been declared as excess because of reductions in nuclear arsenals, materials that have been declared for use in naval-propulsion or other military reactors, and all fissile materials that are in the civilian sector at the time a state joins the treaty.

You can read the report online at [www.ipfmlibrary.org/gfmr08.pdf](http://www.ipfmlibrary.org/gfmr08.pdf).

## Foundation Activities

### Appeal to the Next US President

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation continues to gather support for its [Appeal](#) to the next US president, calling for US leadership for a nuclear weapons-free world.

If you have not yet signed the Appeal, you can do so today on our website at [www.wagingpeace.org/appeal](http://www.wagingpeace.org/appeal).

Please [click here](#) to tell your friends and family about the Appeal.

---

### Foundation Briefing Paper for the New President

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation President David Krieger has produced a briefing paper for the new US President, calling for US leadership for a nuclear weapons-free world. Dr. Krieger outlines the imperative of quick, concise action and the steps necessary to achieve the goal.

[Click here](#) to download a copy of the document. If you would like a hard copy of the briefing paper, please contact us at (805) 965-3443 or email [rwayman@napf.org](mailto:rwayman@napf.org).

---

### Letter Promoting the Appeal in the New York Times

Rick Wayman, Director of Programs at the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, recently had a letter to the editor published in the *New York Times*.

The letter outlined the important decisions facing the next US president on nuclear weapons issues. [Click here](#) to read the letter.

The letters to the editor page is one of the most widely read pages of every newspaper. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation encourages you to take every opportunity to make your opinion on nuclear weapons known by writing letters to the editor. For tips on successful letter writing or other questions, email Rick Wayman at [rwayman@napf.org](mailto:rwayman@napf.org).

---

### 25th Annual Evening for Peace

Two men who wage peace with courage and commitment will be honored at the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's 25th Annual Evening for Peace on November 22 at 7 pm at Santa Barbara's Doubletree Resort.

One of the most compelling voices for peace and justice in the United States today, Rev. George Regas is a prominent leader in the interfaith nuclear disarmament movement. An orator of uncommon brilliance, he spent 28 years as rector of one of the largest Episcopal churches in the United States (All Saints in Pasadena), leading his congregation in its opposition to the Vietnam War, the escalating nuclear arms race, the covert Central America wars, and both the Gulf War and the Iraq War.

Stanley K. Sheinbaum is the epitome of a world citizen, having shaped foreign policy with prime ministers, presidents and kings. He spoke out forcefully against the Vietnam War and was the defense strategist for Daniel Ellsberg during the Pentagon Papers trial. When a coup in Greece imprisoned his friend, Andreas Papandreou, Sheinbaum took great personal risk to save Papandreou's life. In a bold move, Stanley led a group of American Jews to meet with Yasser Arafat and persuaded him to denounce terrorism against Israel. At the request of President Clinton, Sheinbaum traveled to Damascus to set up a summit with Syria. His life story holds lessons for all who are interested in peace and understanding the world.

For tickets and more information, please contact the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at (805) 965-3443.

## Quotes

“A key concern raised by [the US-India deal] was that waiving the international rules for India would set a precedent for other nations to flout international nuclear nonproliferation export controls for their allies or trading partners.”

-- **Rep. Ed Markey** (D-MA), in a letter to US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice referring to the recently-announced nuclear deal between China and Pakistan.

---

“By creating an exception for India, the United States diminishes its own leverage and credibility in global nonproliferation efforts, undermining decades of gains in restricting the spread of nuclear technology worldwide.”

-- **Sen. Barbara Boxer** (D-CA), explaining her vote against the US-India nuclear deal.

---

“The quest for a war-free world has a basic purpose - survival. But if in the process, we learn to achieve it by love rather than by fear, by kindness rather than by compulsion, if in the process, we learn to combine the essential with the enjoyable, the expedient with the benevolent, the practical with the beautiful, this will be an excellent incentive to embark on this great task. But above all, remember your humanity.”

-- **Joseph Rotblat**, in his acceptance speech for the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize. November 4, 2008 marks the 100th anniversary of Rotblat's birth.

## Editorial Team

Tyler Baldrige  
David Krieger  
Vicki Stevenson  
Rick Wayman  
Adriana Zyskowski