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Perspectives

2006 NAPF Annual Dinner Speech

by David Krieger

Let me state the obvious: We are living in deeply troubling times. Having learned little from our mistakes in Vietnam, we repeat them in Iraq. Having learned little from the Cuban Missile Crisis, we have moved again to the nuclear precipice. Our cities, our country and civilization itself remain at risk of catastrophic nuclear devastation.

The North Korean nuclear test did not happen in a vacuum. It happened after continued failures to negotiate in good faith with the North Koreans and after failures of our country to lead in fulfilling our obligations under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It also happened after our government performed 1,054 nuclear tests, and has continued to the present to conduct sub-critical nuclear tests. Current US nuclear policies are leading US in the same direction with Iran, and other countries will follow if we do not change these policies.

[Read The Full Article](#)

Preventable Genocide: Who Speaks for Humanity?

by Robert Orr

In the aftermath of the Second World War, Raphael Lemkin coined the word "genocide." Lemkin, a lawyer and Holocaust survivor wanted to find a way to describe the policies that were intended to exterminate Jews throughout Europe in order to

prevent such a thing from happening again. Based on his efforts, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was adopted by the United Nations in 1948 and went into force three years later. The Convention defined genocide as "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group," and it made genocide a punishable crime under international law.

[Read the Full Article](#)

Lecture at Princeton University

by Kofi Annan

In short, my friends, the only way forward is to make progress on both fronts — non-proliferation and disarmament — at once. And we will not achieve this unless at the same time we deal effectively with the threat of terrorism, as well as the threats, both real and rhetorical, which drive particular States or regimes to seek security, however misguidedly, by developing or acquiring nuclear weapons.

It is a complex and daunting task, which calls for leadership, for the establishment of trust, for dialog and negotiation. But first of all, we need a renewed debate, which must be inclusive, must respect the norms of international negotiations, and must reaffirm the multilateral approach — Woodrow Wilson's approach, firmly grounded in international institutions, treaties, rules, and norms of appropriate behavior.

[Read The Full Article](#)

Nuclear Proliferation

US Senate Approves US-India Nuclear Deal

On 16 November, the United States Senate overwhelmingly approved a controversial nuclear cooperation deal between India and the United States. In an 85 to 12 vote, the Senate approved, specifically for India, an exception to existing US nuclear export and non-proliferation laws that would allow the sale of nuclear fuel and technology to India.

The US-India nuclear cooperation deal is seen as dangerous by many arms control experts. Those experts fear that providing nuclear technology to India, which has not signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and has conducted a nuclear weapons test in 1998, will weaken international non-proliferation efforts. It could also have a direct impact on negotiations with North Korea, which conducted a nuclear weapons test in October, and Iran, which is rapidly developing its nuclear technology. Additionally, the import of new technology and fuel has the potential to increase India's nuclear weapons production capacity by 40 per year. There is speculation that this increase in India's nuclear

weapons production has the potential to spark a nuclear arms race in South Asia.

There is also concern over India's close ties with Iran. Senators Russell Feingold (D-WI) and Barbara Boxer (D-CA) proposed amendments to the deal that would have required India to side with the US on military, terrorism and nuclear issues, but the amendments were seen as deal breakers and were defeated.

Supporters of the bill, including many Democrats with close ties to the India lobby, have stated that it could help India compete economically and militarily with China.

Daryl Kimball, director of the Arms Control Association, has said, "The benefits of the deal have been overstated, while the downsides are significant. The administration and Congress are gambling that the downsides will not occur."

There are still several stages before trade can begin. The Senate must reconcile their version of the bill with the House of Representatives, which passed a similar bill in July, before it is voted on by the full Congress. Additionally, the 45 member Nuclear Supplier's Group must approve the deal before it can go forward.

Source: Linzer, Dafna, "Senate backs White House plan for India nuclear deal," *Washington Post*, 17 November 2006.

China, Pakistan Agree to Joint Nuclear Technology Development

On Friday, 24 November, China and Pakistan agreed to a trade deal that includes continued joint development of nuclear technology. Chinese President Hu Jintao signed 18 economic, social, and defense deals that included a five year free trade agreement.

This furthers the already strong nuclear cooperation between the two countries. China has already assisted Pakistan in building a 300 megawatt nuclear power plant at Chashma in the eastern province of Punjab. In April 2006, China began to assist Pakistan in the construction of a second nuclear reactor.

China and Pakistan also agreed to several defense deals. They include building aircrafts for the Pakistan air force. Prior to this deal, China was already building JF-17 fighter jets for Pakistan. In exchange, Pakistan has agreed to help China with development of its early warning missile system.

In addition to the help with nuclear technology, China has pledged to play a "constructive" role in resolving disputes with India over the contested region of Kashmir. Since 1947, two of the three wars between India and Pakistan have been over Kashmir.

Garwood, Paul, "China signs trade pact and pledges nuclear energy help to Pakistan," *Associated Press*, 24 November 2006.

Missile Defense

India Conducts Missile Defense Test

On Thursday 27 November, The India Defense Ministry announced that it had carried out its first successful test of a missile defense system. The Defense Ministry said that a Prithvi II missile was launched from the Chandipore test range 155 miles north of Bhubaneswar, capital of India's Orissa state. During

the test defense test, 3,000 people in five villages were evacuated, as a precaution.

The India Defense Ministry has a history of exaggerating the success of its weapons tests. This test comes on the heels of a string of failed missile tests. In July, India reported a successful test firing of the Agni II nuclear missile for a full day before admitting that the missile test had actually failed and it had fallen into the ocean.

This most recent test comes a week after both India and Pakistan conducted competing missile tests. Those tests came after the two countries finished a round of peace talks in new Delhi where they intended to resolve their differences.

Even if successful, it will likely require 30 more successful tests before the system can be brought online. India is also currently in talks with Israel, the United States and Russia to buy missile defense systems.

Source: "India claims successful missile interception test," *Associated Press*, 28 November 2006.

US Policy

Plutonium Pits for Nuclear Weapons Will Last Longer than Expected

On 29 November, the National Nuclear Security Administration released a report concluding that the plutonium life in nuclear weapons will not affect warhead reliability for decades. The study, which was conducted by Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories and reviewed by a group of independent scientists known as the Jason Group, says that plutonium pits could last at least another 100 years. This is far longer than previously expected.

The findings in this report could affect the Bush administration's plans for building a new generation of nuclear weapons under the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program. One of the major rationales for the RRW program was that the plutonium in warheads was originally only thought to last 45 years before it began to affect weapon reliability. Robert Nelson of the Union of Concerned Scientists has said that the new findings mean the stockpile will not have to be replaced for 50 years or more. Linton Brooks, the Under Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Security, minimized these findings by stating that plutonium pits are only one factor that affects the overall reliability of the weapons.

Under the current nuclear Stockpile Stewardship Program, the non-nuclear components and explosives are inspected annually. The inspection does not include the plutonium pits. The RRW would be an entirely new type of nuclear warhead that would have new components and plutonium pits. Currently, Los Alamos and Livermore National Laboratories are competing over RRW designs.

Source: Pincus, Walter, "Plutonium lifespan in US weapons much longer than thought," *Washington Post*, 30 November 2006.

US Intelligence Is Exaggerating Chinese Nuclear Capabilities

A newly published report says that US intelligence is inaccurately portraying Chinese military capabilities. According to a study conducted by the Federation of American Scientists and National Resource Defense Council, the Pentagon and other agencies reference incidents out of context that inaccurately portray an imminent Chinese threat.

Using unclassified and declassified documents and satellite images of Chinese installations, the report says that US intelligence is exaggerating China's submarine and long range missile capabilities. The US's arsenal of 10,000 weapons will dwarf China's arsenal of 200 weapons for the foreseeable future. Additionally, China has only 20 ballistic missiles capable of reaching the US, while the United States has 830 missiles each with multiple warheads that could reach China.

The report says the US is using this intelligence to justify a new generation of weapons. In response, China views the US arms buildup as a reason to modernize its own arsenal. This could create a dangerous action and reaction competition between the two countries, similar to the Cold War.

Larry Wortzel, the outgoing chairman of a bipartisan panel that studies US-China Security issues, has said that he thought the Pentagon had given a "realistic picture of what China is doing in the nuclear arena." Beijing has been developing new mobile missiles and experimenting with maneuverable warheads and multiple independently targeted re-entry vehicles.

Source: Wolf, Jim, *Reuters*, 20 November 2006.

Nuclear Testing

Divine Strake Test Will Not Be in New Mexico

Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM) announced on 15 November that the massive Divine Strake weapons test would no longer be taking place in New Mexico. Responding to strong opposition in Nevada, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) had originally considered moving Divine Strake from the Nevada Test Site to take place at the White Sands Missile Range in southern New Mexico.

The test, which is designed to simulate a "bunker buster" nuclear explosion, would include the detonation of 700 tons of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil. The bunker buster is a new nuclear weapon design intended to attack hardened or underground targets. Funding for the program was terminated in 2005.

Nevada residents are concerned that an explosion of this magnitude would spit radioactive particles, which are present from nuclear tests that were conducted during the 1950s, into the air. Additionally, arms control experts think the test could be the first step towards resuming nuclear testing.

Members of Utah's congressional delegation have also raised concerns that the Nevada Test Site is not safe enough for the weapons test. Representative Jim Matheson (D-UT) has said that he does not know why this test is needed if the bunker buster has already been eliminated from the budget.

In August 2006, the test was put off until 2007 while the National Nuclear Security Agency worked on environmental studies regarding radiation exposure related to the blast. There is no final decision whether the test will ultimately take place in Nevada.

Source: Struglinski, Suzanne, "Utah's D.C. delegation airs strong opposition to nuclear test," *Desert Morning News*, 17 November 2006.

Nuclear Insanity

Students Arrested for Blocking UC Nuclear Labs

Six University of California (UC) students and three community members were forcefully dragged by police from the UC Regents meeting on 16 November after they informed the Regents that they would not allow the Regents to convene its DOE lab oversight committee. The oversight committee is the Regents' body in charge of UC's nuclear weapons research, design and manufacturing labs in Los Alamos, New Mexico and Livermore, California.

During the public comment period, a group named the Coalition to Demilitarize Higher Education read a statement explaining why they believed it is imperative that business as usual at the labs be stopped. After the public comment, the Regents began discussing university finance matters and plans related to scale back Los Alamos employee pensions. When Chair of the Regents, Gerald Parsky, attempted to convene the DOE Lab Oversight Committee, the Regent committee responsible for the nuclear weapons labs at Los Alamos and Livermore, the students began to clap and chant. Regent Noman Pattiz laughed at the protesters and mocked them by pretending that the clapping was in support of the UC nuclear weapons labs.

The Regents quickly left the room through the back. While they were leaving, the protesters invited them to dialogue about their demands. The protesters explained that the United States is in a state of crisis. The Bush administration has threatened to use UC made nuclear bombs against Iran and North Korea and is planning to manufacture new nuclear weapons and plutonium pits as part of the so-called Reliable Replace Warhead program. Additionally, the UC has entered into for-profit partnerships with the Bechtel Corporation to manage the nuclear laboratories.

Resources

Congressional Research Service Report on North Korea Nuclear Test

A new report from the Congressional Research Service synthesizes what is known, believed and speculated about the recent North Korean nuclear explosive test, and sketches out the options for US policy.

[Read the Report](#)

Report on Chinese Nuclear Weapons

The Federation of American Scientists and Natural Resources Defense Council have published "Chinese Nuclear Forces and US Nuclear War Planning." The 250-page report reviews the debate over China's modernization of its nuclear forces, examines the composition and possible future development of the Chinese nuclear arsenal, describes past and current US nuclear targeting of China, and uses government software to simulate the effects of Chinese and US nuclear attacks. Its main finding is that the Pentagon and others routinely highlight specific incidents out of context that inaccurately portray a looming Chinese threat.

[Read the Report](#)

Australia Nuclear Proliferation Report

The Medical Association for the Prevention of War and the Australian Conservation Foundation have published a new report titled, "The Illusion of Protection," analyzing the inadequacy of current nuclear safeguards. The report includes a critique of the international nuclear safeguards system, but also deals specifically with the proposed sale of Australian uranium to China. The report provides an overview of the current international safeguards systems, how they are designed to work and the inherent difficulties and flaws in them.

[Download the Report](#)

Complex 2030 Youth Fact Sheet

Concerned citizens have drafted a fact sheet on Complex 2030 that targets youth. This is an excellent tool for educating youth on the Department of Energy's proposed Complex 2030 plan.

[Download the Fact Sheet](#)

Foundation Activities

Speech at Forum at the University of Southern California

On 9 December, Foundation President David Krieger will present a speech at the Educating for Peace Forum. The President's speech will be entitled "Teaching Peace: Nuclear Weapons and the Human Future." The speech is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. at the Leavey Library on the campus of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Joint Press Conference on the US Nuclear Complex

On 14 December, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation will be hosting a joint press conference on Complex 2030. Complex 2030 is a proposed overhaul of the US nuclear infrastructure that would be dangerous, costly and unnecessary. NAPF's Washington, DC Director, Nickolas Roth, will be joined by nuclear experts, congressmen, and advocates from nationally recognized organizations, including the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and Physicians for Social Responsibility.

NAPF to Honor A.N.R. Robinson

Foundation President David Krieger will speak at the 80th birthday celebration for Dr. Arthur N.R. Robinson, former President of Trinidad and Tobago. The address will honor Dr. Robinson, whose leadership and support was essential in establishing the International Criminal Court. The celebration will be December 16th in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Foundation President Receives Peace Award

Freedom From War, a Davis, California based organization, recently honored Foundation President David Krieger with its 2006 Peace Leadership Award. The award stated in part: "We honor your unmatched efforts to abolish nuclear weapons so that millions of lives can be saved around the world. Thank you for your courageous leadership as a peacemaker."

Quotable

"I'm disappointed that the Senate passed this bill. It fundamentally changes over 30 years of nonproliferation policy and will have serious consequences for our national security. This bill, supported by the same Administration that has failed to stem the nuclear weapons efforts of North Korea and Iran, flies in the face of our country's nonproliferation obligations and only contributes to a developing nuclear arms race."

Senator Russell Feingold (WI-Dem), speaking about the US-India Deal that was passed in the Senate..

"The focus in addition to sanctions should be on how to bring North Korea back to the negotiating table, how to make sure that North Korea shows the necessary flexibility, and ultimately to be able to succeed in defusing the nuclear crisis in North Korea."

International Atomic Energy Agency Chief, **Mohamed ElBaradei**, on North Korea.

"I said earlier this year that we are "sleepwalking towards disaster." In truth, it is worse than that — we are asleep at the controls of a fast-moving aircraft. Unless we wake up and take control, the outcome is all too predictable."

Secretary General of the United Nations, **Kofi Annan**, speaking on the lack of good faith international negotiations toward complete disarmament.

Editorial Team

- Nickolas Roth
- David Krieger
- Andrew Culp
- Vicki Stevenson