

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

Issue #149 - December 2009

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Perspectives

World March for Peace and Nonviolence

by David Krieger

In his speech committing 30,000 more American troops to the war in Afghanistan, President Obama spoke of seeking “a future in which those who kill innocents are isolated by those who stand up for peace and prosperity and human dignity.” Unfortunately, he missed the point that his policy in Afghanistan, like the policies of the previous US administration in both Iraq and Afghanistan, will be one that continues to kill innocents, as well as sacrificing more of our own youth at the altar of war. Those who stand up for peace, prosperity and human dignity are those who say No to war. You cannot at the same time seek peace and wage war. You cannot continue to kill innocents in war and uphold human dignity.

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

Breaking Down Walls for a World with Peace and Justice

by Nobel Peace Laureates

The Nobel Peace Laureates, representatives of non-governmental organizations and youth representatives, gathered in Berlin on 10-11 November 2009, having considered the historical implications of the fall of the Berlin Wall and global developments during the 20 years since then, call on the international community to break down the national, international, personal, and institutional walls,

Walls that stand in the way of a nuclear weapons free world by:

- achieving a paradigm shift from counter-productive and excessive militarization to collective security based on cooperative initiatives to address global threats;
- fully implementing the non-proliferation and disarmament obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and all other international agreements on nuclear weapons by all members of the international community;

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

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

Minot Air Force Base Commanders Vow Perfection

Minot Air Force Base is again under new command after two years of mistakes and accidents with nuclear weapons. Mistakes include a cross-country flight from Minot of a B-52 bomber inadvertently armed with six nuclear missiles, the theft of a launch code device and the discovery of missile crew members sleeping on the job.

Col. Ferdinand Stoss, the new commander of the 91st Missile Wing, said, "Humans are imperfect beings, but this mission demands perfection. That's the conundrum."

Macpherson, James, "[New Commanders at Embattled ND Base Vow Perfection](#)," *Associated Press*, November 29, 2009.

Nuclear Proliferation

Australia Evolving Its Position on Uranium Sales to India?

A new relationship developing between Australia and India may indicate that Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd is seeking to resume the sale of uranium to India. Former Australian Prime Minister John Howard promised to re-instate uranium sales to India, but that promise was broken by Rudd's administration.

After a recent trip to India, Rudd said that he wished to increase cooperation in energy and mineral resources.

The Australian government has banned uranium sales to India because its nuclear weapons program is outside of the international treaty regime. However, in 2007, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, of which Australia is a member, voted to ignore India's proliferation risks and allow the sale of uranium.

Malhotra, Jyoti, "[Australia Evolving Its Position On Uranium Sales to India?](#)" *Business Standard*, November 14, 2009.

Pakistani President Cedes Nuclear Command

The President of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, has passed control of the country's nuclear arsenal to Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani. The move comes as Zardari is facing pressure to resign over corruption allegations.

Zardari is also locked in a power struggle with the Pakistani military, which is unhappy with Zardari's overtures toward rival India and his recent deal with the United States that some fear will impose extreme controls over the Pakistani army.

Gamel, Kim, "[Pakistan Opposition Urges Prez to Give Up Powers,](#)" *Associated Press*, November 29, 2009.

Nuclear Insanity

Congressional Caucus to Promote ICBMs

The Senate ICBM Coalition has released a White Paper titled "The Long Pole of the Nuclear Umbrella: A White Paper on the Criticality of the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) to United States Security."

The ICBM Coalition, consisting of the 10 senators from Wyoming, Utah, Louisiana, North Dakota and Montana, believes that the United States must maintain a stockpile of at least 450 nuclear missiles on hair-trigger alert in order to ensure "national security."

The authors state, "Though we value the local connection many of us have to the missile community, our support stems from a belief that ICBMs are fundamental to keeping Americans and our allies safe and secure."

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

Consumer Goods Made with Radioactive Materials

A lack of regulatory oversight has led to massive quantities of radioactive metal entering the US raw materials supply, meaning that many consumer products may expose users to dangerous levels of radiation.

According to the Scripps investigation, there are at least 500,000 radioactive metal objects outside of toxic waste dumps in the United States, and the amount of waste improperly disposed of may reach 20 million pounds.

"Nobody's going to know - nobody - how much has been melted into consumer goods," said Ray Turner of River Metals Recycling. "It's your worst nightmare."

Over the past few years, scandals have erupted over radioactive materials in household furniture, cheese graters, purses, tableware, fencing materials, elevators and airplanes. In the case of the cheese graters, they were giving off the equivalent of a chest X-ray's worth of radiation every 36 hours.

Gutierrez, David, "[Consumer Goods Made With Radioactive Metals](#)," *Natural News*, November 4, 2009.

Missile Defense

Missile Defense May Backfire

Air Force General Kevin Chilton, commander of the US Strategic Command, said that a missile defense system that is too robust could destabilize international relations and cause countries such as China to expand their nuclear arsenals.

Chilton also admitted that the theory of deterrence, upon which the continued possession of nuclear weapons is often rationalized, is ineffective against countries such as North Korea and Iran because they may not fear the threat of retaliation.

Stewart, Phil, "[US Missile Defense May Backfire If Too Robust: General](#)," *Reuters*, November 10, 2009.

Nuclear Testing

CTBT Is Achievable

Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), told delegates at a recent meeting that entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is an achievable goal and it's time to translate wide political support for it into concrete action.

Tóth said that there has been a "paradigm shift" in support for the Treaty and its parent organization, since US President Obama set out the US agenda for disarmament and non-proliferation in Prague in April, followed by his agreement with Russian President Medvedev in London to seek entry into force of the treaty.

"[After Ten-Year 'Hiatus,' Entry Into Force of Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty an Achievable Goal](#)," Comprehensive Test-Ban-Treaty Organization, November 17, 2009.

Decades of Testing in Nevada Contaminate 1.6 Trillion Gallons of Water

Between 1951 and 1992, the United States conducted around 1,000 nuclear tests at the Nevada Test Site, 75 miles northeast of Las Vegas. Each explosion deposited a toxic load of radioactivity into the ground and, in some cases, directly into aquifers.

A study estimates that the exceptional amount of radiation dispersed in the tests contaminated 1.6 trillion gallons of water - enough to fill a lake 300 miles long, one mile wide and 25 feet deep. The government has no plans to clean up the aquifers, which will now be radioactive for tens of thousands of years.

Vartabedian, Ralph, "[Nuclear Scars: Tainted Water Runs Beneath Nevada Desert](#)," *Los Angeles Times*, November 13, 2009.

Nuclear Energy and Waste

US Gets Electricity from Decommissioned Nuclear Weapons

Approximately 45% of the fuel currently used in US nuclear power plants comes from decommissioned Russian nuclear weapons. The program for dismantling and diluting the fuel cores of decommissioned Russian warheads - known informally as Megatons to Megawatts - is set to expire in 2013.

While the Megatons to Megawatts program provides a means of ensuring weapons-grade fissile material is eliminated, there is still no permanent storage solution in sight for the highly radioactive waste created through the production of nuclear energy.

Kramer, Andrew E., "[Power for US From Russia's Old Nuclear Weapons](#)," *The New York Times*, November 9, 2009.

Resources

New Features on Nuclear Files

A series of papers on the nuclear programs of [India](#), [Pakistan](#), [Israel](#), [North Korea](#) and [Iran](#), written by NAPF intern Volha Charnysh, is the latest addition to the Foundation's [Nuclear Files](#) website. The papers detail the history and current status of each country's nuclear program.

NuclearFiles.Org allows visitors to take a comprehensive look at the Nuclear Age, with an interactive timeline, primary source documents and much more. It is a tremendous educational resource for students, educators and other interested individuals.

Nuclear Power: The Renaissance That Wasn't

The group Physicians for Social Responsibility has released a short timeline outlining the many failures, cancellations and setbacks for the supposed "renaissance" of nuclear power in 2009.

[Click here](#) to view the timeline.

2009 Global Fissile Material Report

A new report from the International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM), "Global Fissile Material Report 2009: The Path to Nuclear Disarmament," is now available.

The report discusses how nuclear-armed states could declare their stockpiles of nuclear weapons, plutonium and highly-enriched uranium, and how these declarations might be verified using the methods and tools being developed for what is now called "nuclear archaeology."

The report also includes IPFM's annual assessment of worldwide stocks, production and disposition of highly-enriched uranium and plutonium, and current efforts to eliminate these materials.

The Panel estimates that there are 2,091 metric tons of highly enriched uranium in the world, of which 1,270 metric tons are in Russia and 741 are in the United States.

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

Foundation Activities

Celebrating Women for Peace

On November 7, 2009, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation honored author Riane Eisler with its Distinguished Peace Leadership Award and refugee advocate Judith Mayotte with its World Citizenship Award at the Four Seasons Biltmore in Santa Barbara, California.

A photo gallery and links to the text and audio versions of the evening's speeches are available by clicking [here](#).

Peace Leadership Program Update

The Foundation's Peace Leadership Program took significant steps forward during the month of November. Paul Chappell, Director of the Peace Leadership Program, spoke at numerous venues around Boston and Southern California to promote the program.

To read an in-depth report on the Peace Leadership Program, including the program's purpose, goals and offerings, [click here](#).

To watch a six minute video of one of Paul's recent speeches on peace leadership, [click here](#).

David Krieger Speaks at World March for Peace

Foundation President David Krieger was the keynote speaker at a rally for the World March for Peace and Nonviolence in Los Angeles, CA, on December 2. The World March has gone through 35 countries on four continents over the past 60 days to demonstrate the world's strong desire for peace.

Dr. Krieger emphasized the continued need to work for peace and a nuclear weapons-free world. [Click here](#) to read a copy of his speech.

Golden Dove for Human Rights

At the Foundation's 26th Annual Evening for Peace on November 7, 2009, David Krieger and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation were awarded with a golden dove from distinguished author and social theorist Frances Moore Lappé.

In a statement, Ms. Lappé said, "I am delighted and honored to pass this Golden Dove to David Krieger and to the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. Thirty identical Golden Doves, created by German artist Richard Hillinger, are circling the planet to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

To read Frances Moore Lappé's comments in full and see a photo of David Krieger with the golden dove, [click here](#).

Quotes

"The memories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are etched in the minds of the world and I would be honored to have the opportunity to visit those cities at some point during my presidency."

-- US President **Barack Obama**. No sitting US president has visited the cities, which were attacked with nuclear weapons by the US in August 1945.

“The world is over-armed and peace is underfunded. People everywhere are recognizing as never before the tremendous burdens and risks of continuing to invest vast sums and energies in nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction, small arms, land mines, cluster munitions and other deadly weapons.”

-- United Nations Secretary General **Ban Ki-moon**

“Nuclear weapons are unique in their destructive power, in the unspeakable human suffering they cause, in the impossibility of controlling their effects in space and time, in the risks of escalation and in the threat they pose to the environment, to future generations, indeed, to the survival of humanity. The ICRC appeals to all States to ensure that these weapons are never used again, regardless of their views on the legality of such use.”

-- Statement of the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** to the United Nations General Assembly

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