

THE SUNflower



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

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- Perspectives
 - Occupy Peace by David Krieger
 - Thinking Outside the Cold War Nuclear Box by Walter Pincus
- US Nuclear Weapons Policy
 - President Obama Invited to Visit Hiroshima
 - Sequestration Could Eliminate ICBMs
- Nuclear Proliferation
 - IAEA Report on Iran by Seymour Hersh
 - UK Commits \$3.1 Billion to New Nuclear Weapons
- Nuclear Insanity
 - French Nuclear Firm Fined for Spying on Greenpeace
- Nuclear Labs
 - Closure Process for Federal Labs Suggested
- Missile Defense
 - Russia to Implement Tough Countermeasures on US Missile Defense
- Military-Industrial Complex
 - US Weapons Contain Counterfeit Parts
- Resources
 - New Report from International Panel on Fissile Materials
- Foundation Activities
 - Peace Leadership Summer Workshop
 - Give the Gift of Peace
 - Speaking of Peace
 - Evening for Peace Page Now Online
- Quotes

Perspectives

Occupy Peace

by David Krieger

The Occupy Movement is demonstrating its durability and perseverance. Like a Japanese Daruma doll, each time it is knocked off balance it serenely pops back up. The movement has been seeking justice for the 99 percent, and justice is an essential element of peace.

For decades, our country has been in permanent preparation for war, spending over half of the total annual discretionary funds that Congress allocates on "defense," our euphemism for war. World military expenditures exceed \$1.5 trillion annually, and the US spends more than half of this amount, more than the rest of the world combined.

This article was originally published by *Truthout*. To read more, [click here](#).

Thinking Outside the Cold War Nuclear Box

by Walter Pincus

Further reductions in nuclear weapons beyond those agreed to in the New START agreement with Russia are being discussed within the Obama administration as part of the Defense Department review of future spending.

Maybe it is time for thinking outside what is still a Cold War nuclear box, which focuses on the United States having enough secure nuclear weapons to deter some other country from using theirs against America or its allies, today or in the future.

This article was originally published by the *Washington Post*. To read more, [click here](#).

US Nuclear Weapons Policy

President Obama Invited to Visit Hiroshima

The governor of Hiroshima prefecture, Hidehiko Yuzaki, said that he would like President Obama to visit Hiroshima, and that an apology for the US atomic bombing of the city in 1945 would not be necessary. He said that all world leaders should visit the city "to see the actual reality of what happens if [nuclear weapons] are really used."

Mr. Yuzaki explained that he does not seek an apology from Mr. Obama for the United States' actions on August 6, 1945, which killed at least 140,000 people, because he "would like to talk about the future" instead of focusing on the past.

Landers, Peter, "[No Need to Apologize, Hiroshima Leader Tells Obama](#)," *Wall Street Journal*, November 11, 2011.

Sequestration Could Eliminate ICBMs

Because of the failure of the congressional "super committee" to come up with a plan to reduce the national deficit, it is possible that prescribed automatic reductions will take place across a number of federal spending programs, including a 23% cut in military spending in 2013.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta warned that cutting the weapons budget could cause the land-based missile wing of the US nuclear "triad" to be eliminated. The US currently has 450 Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles in its deployed arsenal.

"We would have to formulate a new security strategy that accepted substantial risk of not meeting our defense needs. A sequestration budget is not one that I could recommend," Panetta wrote to members of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"[Panetta: Budget Sequester Could Force Elimination of ICBMs](#)," *Global Security Newswire*, November 15, 2011.

Nuclear Proliferation

IAEA Report on Iran

by Seymour Hersh

I've been reporting on Iran and the bomb for *The New Yorker* for the past decade, with a focus on the repeated inability of the best and the brightest of the Joint Special Operations Command to find definitive evidence of a nuclear-weapons production program in Iran. The goal of the high-risk American covert operations was to find something physical—a "smoking calutron," as a knowledgeable official once told me—to show the world that Iran was working on warheads at an undisclosed site, to make the evidence public, and then to attack and destroy the site.

The new report, therefore, leaves us where we've been since 2002, when George Bush declared Iran to be a member of the Axis of Evil—with lots of belligerent talk but no definitive evidence of a nuclear-weapons program.

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

Hersh, Seymour, "[Iran and the IAEA](#)," *The New Yorker*, November 18, 2011.

UK Commits \$3.1 Billion to New Nuclear Weapons

The United Kingdom is spending \$3.1 billion on nuclear weapons plants before the country makes a decision on whether or not to replace its current fleet of four submarines that carry Trident nuclear warheads. The British Ministry of Defense (MoD) claims that the new facilities are needed to ensure the safety of the current nuclear warheads, but that the facilities also have the capacity to design a new nuclear warhead "should that be required."

Caroline Lucas MP of the Green Party said, "The fact that the MoD signed off on these costs before a decision has even been made on replacing the Trident warhead makes a complete mockery of the democratic process. It's clear that replacing this extravagant and discredited white elephant project would mean locking the UK into the costly technologies of the past, at a time when we should be developing the realistic defense solutions of the future."

Edwards, Rob, "[MoD Spends 2 Billion Pounds on Nuclear Weapons Ahead of Trident Renewal Decision](#)," *The Guardian*, November 27, 2011.

Nuclear Insanity

French Nuclear Firm Fined for Spying on Greenpeace

EDF, France's state-owned energy firm, has been fined 1.5 million euros for spying on the anti-nuclear group Greenpeace. EDF is the world's biggest nuclear energy supplier, and has been challenged for years by Greenpeace's anti-nuclear energy campaigning.

This is not the first time an entity associated with the French government has crossed paths with Greenpeace. In 1986, French secret service agents bombed Greenpeace's ship, the *Rainbow Warrior*, in New Zealand as the ship prepared to set out on a mission to protest French nuclear weapons testing. The 1986 bombing killed one person.

Gersmann, Hanna, "[EDF Fined 1.5 Million Euros for Spying on Greenpeace](#)," *The Guardian*, November 10, 2011.

Nuclear Labs

Closure Process for Federal Labs Suggested

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of the Inspector General has issued a report suggesting that the DOE should consider the equivalent of the military's base closure process for its large research lab complex. The DOE has 16 laboratories around the United States, many of which are involved in nuclear weapons work.

The report suggests creating "an independent panel to comprehensively examine alternatives for evaluating, consolidating, and/or realigning the Department's R&D laboratory complex."

"This cost structure, specifically the proportion of scarce science resources diverted to administrative, overhead, and indirect costs for each laboratory, may be unsustainable in the current budget environment," the report concluded.

Fleck, John, "[Closure Process For Fed Labs Suggested](#)," *Albuquerque Journal*, November 17, 2011.

Missile Defense

Russia to Implement Tough Countermeasures on US Missile Defense

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has announced plans to counter the missile defense system that the US has been planning in Europe. Russia insists on being involved in any missile defense activity in the region and is asking for an explicit legally-binding guarantee that the US missile defense system will not target Russia. Missile defense has been a major barrier to US-Russian relations since President George W. Bush unilaterally withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty in 2001.

The United States has not been willing to give such a guarantee, although US officials have repeatedly said that the system is not intended to target Russia.

Medvedev said, "I have ordered the Ministry of Defense to deploy a radar missile warning system in the city of Kaliningrad. Then, a strategic missile facilities shield will be the first to be strengthened as part of setting up Russia's Air and Space defense system. The third step is to equip Russia's Navy and strategic missiles troops with a cutting-edge ABM penetration device and super efficient warheads. Finally, I have ordered the

country's military to develop measures enabling the troops to destroy ABM control and information systems in the event of an attack."

Anisimov, Sergey and Natalya Dmitriyeva, "[Russia's ABM Response: Just Warning](#)," *The Voice of Russia*, November 26, 2011.

Military-Industrial Complex

US Weapons Contain Counterfeit Parts

The Senate Armed Services Committee has discovered that in at least 1,800 cases, the US Department of Defense may have been sold counterfeit weapons parts. The committee reported finding that at least one million fake parts have made their way into military aircraft and weapons.

"A million parts is surely a huge number. But I want to repeat this: we have only looked at a portion of the defense supply chain. So those 1,800 cases are just the tip of the iceberg," said Senator Carl Levin, Chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The majority of the counterfeit parts originated in China. Because military grade chips are designed to withstand great extremes of temperature and humidity, there are fears that the fake Chinese parts could suddenly fail.

Moore, Malcolm, "[US Weapons 'Full of Fake Chinese Parts'](#)," *Daily Telegraph*, November 8, 2011.

Resources

New Report from International Panel on Fissile Materials

The International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM) has released a new report entitled "Managing Spent Fuel from Nuclear Power Reactors: Experience and Lessons from Around the World."

The report provides an overview of the policy and technical challenges posed by problems of long-term storage and disposal of spent fuel from nuclear power reactors over the past five decades. It analyzes the efforts to manage and dispose of spent fuel by ten countries that account for more than 80 percent of the world's nuclear power capacity: Canada, Finland, France, Germany, South Korea, Japan, Russia, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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

Foundation Activities

Peace Leadership Summer Workshop

The first NAPF Peace Leadership Summer Workshop will be held in Santa Barbara from July 22-29, 2012. This is a good opportunity to learn the peace leadership skills and ideals that can help us improve our personal lives, communities and the world.

[Click here](#) for more information about the summer workshop. If you have any questions, please [email](#) NAPF Peace Leadership Program Director Paul K. Chappell.

Give the Gift of Peace

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has a number of items available for purchase in time for the holiday season.

[*Speaking of Peace: Quotations to Inspire Action*](#), a collection of quotations on peace, war and the human spirit, has just been published by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. The quotations were selected by David Krieger, long-time President of NAPF, to encourage thought and inspire action toward a more peaceful and nuclear weapon-free world.

The Foundation also has two new [long-sleeve t-shirts](#) designed by NAPF volunteer Benjamin Cziller of [Amplifyd](#). We also have other t-shirts, books and other products available in our online Peace Store.

[Click here](#) to go to the main page of the Peace Store.

Speaking of Peace

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation published *Speaking of Peace: Quotations to Inspire Action*, a collection of quotations on war, peace and the human spirit, less than six weeks ago. It is already ranked #65 on amazon.com's list of quotation books. Can you help push it into the top 10?

[Click here](#) to order on the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's website, or [here](#) to purchase from amazon.com.

Evening for Peace Page Now Online

Over 250 people came together at the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's 28th Annual Evening for Peace to celebrate the accomplishments of two distinguished peace leaders, Tadatoshi Akiba, former Mayor of Hiroshima, and Shigeko Sasamori, a survivor of the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

[Click here](#) to visit the page that recaps the event, along with a photo gallery and much more.

Quotes

"It's a little like saying it costs me \$1,000 a year to operate my car, except that I am not counting the cost of insurance, repairs, registration, taxes, etc."

-- **Stephen Schwartz**, commenting on the White House's insistence that an independent estimate of \$700 billion for nuclear weapons over the next 10 years is much too high.

"I am in Kwajalein. It does not feel good to be shot at."

-- **Tony de Brum**, a Senator from the Marshall Islands, describing his feeling regarding a test of the Advanced Hypersonic Weapon, a flying bomb that travels over five times faster than the speed of sound. The bomb was launched from Hawaii and landed on a target in the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands on November 17.

"Designating January 27, 2012, as a national day of remembrance for Americans who, during the Cold War, worked and lived downwind from nuclear testing sites and were adversely affected by the radiation exposure generated by the above ground nuclear weapons testing."

-- Senate Resolution 330, introduced by **Senators Crapo, Risch, Bingaman, Udall (NM), Udall (CO) and Bennet.**

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