



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

This newsletter is part of Inter Press Service (IPS) and Soka Gakkai International (SGI) project. It includes independent news and analyses as well as columns by experts, news from international NGOs and a review of the global media for a glimpse of what is happening on the ground. Newspaper articles reproduced in this newsletter are for personal use and aim at giving information to readers. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.

In-Depth Reports



Threat of 'Nuclear Terror' Diverts Abolition Efforts

DUNEDIN, New Zealand - President Barack Obama indicated in Prague in 2009 that he was interested in achieving a "world without nuclear weapons." Since that bold statement (which was one of the reasons for his Nobel peace prize) he has been persuaded by his foreign policy advisors and pressured by the Nuclear Weapons Laboratories to put nuclear abolition on hold and to focus instead on issues such as nuclear safety and nuclear security. ➤ Pages 02-03



Impassioned Plea for Averting War with Iran

LONDON - Pax Christi, the International Catholic Movement for Peace, has made an impassioned plea for averting war with Iran. "Surely such a war would spell worldwide disaster, and it's up to movements like us to send a strong message against military aggression," Pax Christi said in an important document. ➤ Pages 04-05



Asia: Dangers of Extended Nuclear Deterrence

SYDNEY - With India and Pakistan testing nuclear-capable ballistic missiles this April, close on the heels of North Korea's unsuccessful test launch of a long-range rocket, a new report by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute for International Policy says it is Asian strategic mistrust that is holding back nuclear disarmament. ➤ Pages 06-07

What Others Say

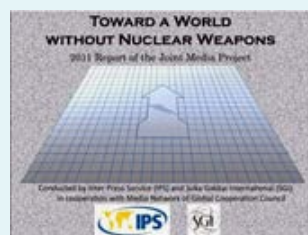
U.S. Stockpile Security and Monitoring Capabilities Strengthened, Says New Report ➤ Page 08
US Nuclear Weapons Upgrades: Experts Report Massive Cost Increase ➤ Pages 09-10
A Nuclear Clash Could Starve the World ➤ Pages 11-12

Civil Society Perspective

The Shame of Nations: A New Record is Set for Spending on War ➤ Pages 13-14
100 Nuclear Explosions - A billion People Starve to Death ➤ Pages 14-15
Norway Plans International Conference on Humanitarian Impact of Nukes in 2013 ➤ Page 16
Cut Nuclear Spending ➤ Page 16
"Act now to create a WMD-Free Zone in the Middle East" ➤ Page 17
Stick with No to NATO... ➤ Page 18

Translations | Adaptations ➤ Pages 19

Compilation of Articles April 2010-March 2011



<http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Toward a World without Nuclear Weapons.pdf>



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

In-Depth Reports

Threat of 'Nuclear Terror' Diverts Abolition Efforts

By KEVIN P. CLEMENTS *



DUNEDIN, New Zealand (IPS) - President Barack Obama indicated in Prague in 2009 that he was interested in achieving a "world without nuclear weapons." Since that bold statement (which was one of the reasons for his Nobel peace prize) he has been persuaded by his foreign policy advisors and pressured by the Nuclear Weapons Laboratories to put nuclear abolition on hold and to focus instead on issues such as nuclear safety and nuclear security.

The first nuclear summit in Washington in 2010 therefore focused its attention on nuclear security and the prevention of nuclear terrorism. These objectives, while important, do not really address the safety of 'peaceful' nuclear reactors or the reduction or abolition of nuclear weapons.

On the contrary, nuclear security, as defined by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), refers to "the prevention and detection of, and response to, theft, sabotage, unauthorised access, illegal transfer or other malicious acts involving nuclear material, other radioactive substances or their associated facilities." In other words the focus is on making sure that nuclear material does not get into the 'wrong hands'. This in turn gets redefined in terms of where states line up in the 'war on terror'. What is surprising about this focus is that there is little solid evidence that terrorist groups are seeking highly enriched uranium either to make dirty bombs or to fuel the nuclear ambitions of states wishing to acquire more sophisticated nuclear weapons.

The first as well as the second summit (Seoul, March 26-27, 2012) focused on nuclear terrorism and better management of nuclear and fissile materials: how to prevent, detect and respond to the "illicit" (however this is defined) seizure of any kind of nuclear material, whether raw ore, yellow cake, hexafluoride, metal oxide, ceramic pellets or fuel rod assemblies.

The first summit aimed to turn nuclear security issues into an important prerequisite for advancing nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, thereby helping to realise "a world without nuclear weapons." Sceptics argue this diverted attention from the business of deeper cuts in arsenals, dealing more creatively with threshold and virtual nuclear states and establishing clear guidelines/roadmaps for nuclear abolition.

The first summit did, however, generate a work plan to minimise and reduce the amount of highly enriched uranium (HEU); ratify international agreements such as the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) and amend the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM). Some gains were made there and the Seoul Summit was intended to review progress on these measures and (in the wake of the Fukushima meltdown) to focus attention on the dangers of nuclear accidents.

What is somewhat problematic is the link between theft of nuclear materials and terrorist activities. The fact that Osama bin Laden described acquiring nuclear weapons as a "religious duty," and that the 9/11 Commission Report concluded that Al-Qaeda has tried to acquire or make nuclear weapons does not mean that Al-Qaeda or any other terrorist group is capable now or still interested in achieving this objective. It is certainly a big leap to go from there to suggesting that such weapons in the hands of terrorists will be used to generate massive loss of life or can confer any obvious political benefits. To focus so much attention on this low probability behaviour is a distraction from moving toward a nuclear-free world –with reduced reliance on both nuclear energy and nuclear weaponry. ☺



*Professor Kevin P. Clements is Chair in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Otago, New Zealand.



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

In-Depth Reports

The South Korean government hoped that the Seoul Summit would be a "stepping-stone to breakthroughs in broader areas of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament". While it did discuss the interface between nuclear security and safety, the summit communiqué did not really establish this stepping-stone nor did it place any real restraints on the continued expansion of nuclear power or energy in Northeast Asia and in the rest of the world.

In fact most commentators felt the communiqué was bland and rather non-committal. Signatories were "encouraged" 28 times but never "required" to undertake anything. The final communiqué had at its core an agreement among participating countries to continue decreasing their holdings of nuclear materials.

Even this agreement, however, was high on generalities and low on specific targets for eliminating or reducing such materials. It encouraged each state to voluntarily set and announce targets for minimising possession of HEU by the end of 2013. The United States and Russia have been converting HEU into low enriched uranium (LEU) but there has been little progress made on the reduction or eradication of the 500 tons of plutonium, which are enough to generate 126,000 nuclear weapons.

The communiqué was notable for its omissions rather than inclusions. For example, Japan highlighted the dangers from nuclear terrorism without referring to its rapid expansion of nuclear technology exports to countries such as Vietnam and Jordan, which arguably might not have the regulatory frameworks for protecting and safeguarding nuclear materials.

Iran, North Korea and Uzbekistan all have significant stockpiles of weapons grade material as well but they were excluded from the conversations and no reference was made on how to deal with their nuclear materials.

Surprisingly, for a conference that took place on the Korean peninsula, there was no mention of ways in which North Korea could be restrained from advancing its nuclear programme; nor any real discussion on how Pakistan's nuclear materials could be better secured.

Most importantly, however, there was no real willingness to establish clear links between peaceful and non-peaceful uses of nuclear energy or between nuclear safety and nuclear disarmament. From a peace movement perspective, the summit failed to fuel momentum towards Obama's aspiration for a nuclear weapon-free world. At the third summit scheduled for 2014 in the Netherlands it is important that these links be established and the abolitionist objective be at the heart of all the conversations. [IPS Columnist Service | April 2012]

Copyright © 2012 IPS-Inter Press Service ☐



U.S. President Barack Obama (7th from L, 1st row) waves as he joins South Korean President Lee Myung-bak (C, 1st row), Chinese President Hu Jintao (7th from R, 1st row) and other leaders during a group photo session for the Nuclear Security Summit at the Convention and Exhibition Center in southern Seoul on March 27, 2012. (Yonhap)



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

In-Depth Reports

Impassioned Plea for Averting War with Iran

By RICHARD JOHNSON



LONDON - Pax Christi, the International Catholic Movement for Peace, has made an impassioned plea for averting war with Iran. "Surely such a war would spell worldwide disaster, and it's up to movements like us to send a strong message against military aggression," Pax Christi said in an important document.

"A war with Iran, to which a military attack would inevitably lead, would be a disaster for the whole world and any talk of a pre-emptive attack must be challenged as illegal and immoral," it said indirectly referring to Israeli threats of an assault on Iran.

Pax Christi calls for facing "the unresolved issue of Iran's civilian nuclear programme, to which it is entitled, and the fears that this will develop into a nuclear weapons programme, which would violate the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty" (NPT).

Significantly, the Catholic Peace Movement emphasizes that Iran is entitled to develop its civilian nuclear programme and takes into account fears that the civilian might turn into military with untoward implications.

However, Pax Christi points out that unlike North Korea, Iran has not withdrawn from the NPT. "But this is not an issue to be judged on its own," says the document released on March 13, 2012. "Signatories to that Treaty, which include Britain, promised to eliminate their own nuclear weapons" – a pledge that remains unfulfilled.

This applies to other nuclear weapons states as well, be these signatories or non-signatories to the NPT: the United States, France, India, Russia, China, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea.

Pax Christi recalls that in 1996 the International Court of Justice had ruled that there is an obligation on nuclear weapon states to negotiate the abolition of nuclear weapons and to bring such negotiations to a successful conclusion.

The ruling has in practice gone unnoticed. Pax Christi suggests the following as a way forward "in solidarity with the people of Iran and all peoples potentially threatened by nuclear weapons through accident, misunderstandings or deliberate use".

It calls upon the British government to lead by the best example by:

- Ceasing its preparation of a new generation of nuclear weapons. "Far from negotiating elimination of these weapons Britain is planning to build yet another generation of nuclear weapons to follow Trident, at a cost of billions of pounds which would be far better spent on the real needs of our people," notes Pax Christi.
- Showing the transparency it seeks in Iran with regard to allowing international inspections of our own nuclear plants and facilities.
- Lifting sanctions on Iran when there are signs of progress.
- Employing every diplomatic means both nationally and through the European Union and the United Nations to make the possession of nuclear weapons by any state illegal.
- Calling on Israel to officially admit to having a nuclear arsenal, the existence of which is beyond any doubt.

Pax Christi also wants Britain to work to demilitarise the region through a sustained programme of conventional and nuclear disarmament and in particular to create a Nuclear Weapons Free Middle East. This is to be discussed at the forthcoming UN Middle East Nuclear Free Zone conference this year in Helsinki, which it urges all countries to support. Such a Zone will mean that nuclear-armed ships from other states do not patrol in the Middle East area. ➔



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

In-Depth Reports

- Supporting efforts to establish common regional structures that ensure the security needs of all states to build a common, sustainable security.

"The peace we seek cannot come from weaponry, but from a commitment to justice and nonviolent actions which recognise the dignity of every human person and all creation. We reject models of security that rely on fear, the demonisation of others or on the strength of arms – conventional and nuclear," Pax Christi said.

It affirmed the words of Archbishop Francis Chullikatt, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations speaking in 2011. "Proliferation is a real and serious challenge. However, non-proliferation efforts will only be effective if they are universal. The nuclear-weapon states must abide by their obligations to negotiate the total elimination of their own arsenals if they are to have any authenticity in holding the non-nuclear states to their commitments not to pursue nuclear weapons....."

Disarmament Commission

The need for universal elimination of nuclear weapons was also stressed at the UN Disarmament Commission early April 2012. Wrapping up the Commission's general debate on April 5, Iran's Eshagh Al Habib urged this UN body to accord priority to the agenda item on nuclear disarmament as a "long-delayed part of its mandate".

"While there was no pretext to justify the position of nuclear weapons in the hands of any country, it was a source of grave concern that certain nuclear-weapon States still continued to allocate billions of dollars to develop new types of nuclear weapons, build nuclear weapons production facilities and replace such weapons," a summary of the debate says.

In that vein, Iran supported the proposal of the Non-Aligned Movement on the adoption of a legal framework for the total elimination of nuclear weapons by 2025, Al Habib said. It was important to start negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention and a universal and unconditionally binding instrument on negative security assurances to all non-nuclear-weapons States.

Meanwhile, noted the summary, despite the stated intentions by some nuclear-weapons States to reduce part of their nuclear-weapon stocks, limited bilateral and unilateral arms reductions were far below the expectations of the international community, and could never be a substitute for the obligations of those States to completely eliminate their nuclear weapons.

Turning to the horizontal and vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons, which constituted another serious challenge, he said the best way to guarantee the non-proliferation of weapons was the "full and non-selective" implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Its universality must be assured, in particular in the Middle East, where the nuclear-weapon programme of the only non-party to the treaty – which had also been assisted by France – seriously threatened regional and international peace and security.

China's Zhang Juan'An said that the international community should foster a peaceful, cooperative and stable security environment, so as to remove the root cause of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

All parties, Juan'An said, should work together to consolidate the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and ensure the impartiality and non-discrimination of international efforts, adhering to resolving "non-proliferation hotspot issues" through political and diplomatic means. China continued to call for the peaceful resolution of the Korean peninsula and Iranian nuclear issues; indeed, he said, the relevant diplomatic processes were "facing good opportunities nowadays," he added.

Furthermore, a phased, long-term plan was needed towards a convention on the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons. Countries with the largest nuclear arsenals bore "special and primary" responsibility for nuclear disarmament and should continue to make "drastic and substantive" reductions in their nuclear arsenals, he said. The nuclear-weapon States should reduce the role of nuclear weapons in their national security policy, and all parties should make concerted efforts to advance the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).
[IDN-InDepthNews – April 17, 2012] □



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

In-Depth Reports

Asia: Dangers of Extended Nuclear Deterrence

By NEENA BHANDARI



SYDNEY - With India and Pakistan testing nuclear-capable ballistic missiles this April, close on the heels of North Korea's unsuccessful test launch of a long-range rocket, a new report by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute for International Policy says it is Asian strategic mistrust that is holding back nuclear disarmament.

According to Lowy's international security programme director Rory Medcalf, who is also principal editor of the report titled *Disarming Doubt: The Future of Extended Nuclear Deterrence in East Asia*, the nuclear disarmament push in Asia had stalled, owing to the region's tangle of strategic mistrust.

In particular, North Korea's continuing provocative nuclear and missile programmes, leaving Japan and South Korea looking to their defences; US allies unwilling to weaken the 'extended deterrence' umbrella under which they are defended by American nuclear weapons; China unwilling to cap the growth or modernisation of its nuclear arsenal; and the China-India-Pakistan triangle of mistrust and arms competition adding another major obstacle to nuclear arms control and disarmament in Asia.

Medcalf said this situation could be worsened if the high cost of conventional weapons ever drove a future US Administration to expand the role of nuclear armaments in America's strategic 'pivot' back to Asia.

Asia is steadily becoming increasingly militarised, as a result of rapid economic growth and strategic uncertainty. The International Institute for Strategic Studies in London said in March 2012 that arms spending by Asian nations will this year for the first time overtake that of European countries. China, Japan, India, South Korea and Australia accounted for more than 80 per cent of total Asian defence spending and Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam were all investing in improving air and naval capacities.

Mixed Bag

The Lowy report makes policy recommendations for governments to untangle Asia's nuclear dangers. Dr Sue Wareham, Member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons' (ICAN) Management Committee in Australia, says: "The recommendations are a mixed bag. While there is recognition of the devastating consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, there does not appear to be enunciation of the logical goal of getting rid of the weapons."

"The recommendation that extended deterrence should be used only to counter existential threats perpetuates the myth that deterrence is a legitimate and effective way to prevent acts of aggression. If indeed it is legitimate to use weapons of mass destruction as a deterrent, then one needs to explain why deterrence is legitimate for the US and those under its umbrella to use, and for China, but not for North Korea. The unstated and unsustainable rule that some nations may have nuclear weapons but some must not have them appears to go unchallenged," Dr Wareham told IDN.

"The recommendations also appear to paint a US role in Asia as a necessary and stabilising factor that China must accept. From an Australian perspective however, one must recognise the growing concern even in our own country at the negative signals being sent to Asia by our strong support for US military policy," she added.

The US President Barack Obama has called for further bilateral cuts to the US and Russian arsenals, including tactical weapons and warhead stockpiles, as well as issued a renewed invitation for China to commence a nuclear dialogue with the US. ➔





BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

In-Depth Reports

Professor Andrew O'Neil, Director of the Griffith Asia Institute at Griffith University points out that the challenge in Asia with respect to progressing disarmament is two-fold. First, in stark contrast to Europe, "the region has no formal arms control arrangements and no history of any serious negotiation on reducing military forces generally, let alone reducing nuclear warhead and missile stockpiles."

"Second, the region now has five nuclear weapons states (US, China, India, Pakistan and DPRK), an increase of three since the end of the Cold War. All of Asia's nuclear weapons states have indicated that outstanding political issues/conflicts need to be resolved before they will embark on military/nuclear reductions, and China has made it very clear that it will not reduce its arsenal until the US and Russia reduce their respective warhead stockpiles to the level that China has (i.e. around 150-200 warheads)," Professor O'Neil said.

It is the fundamental security dilemma among regional states that is making real progress towards disarmament difficult. As Professor O'Neil, who is also Editor-in-chief of the Australian Journal of International Affairs says, "Extended deterrence will probably increase in importance as the US seeks to leverage its nuclear superiority in order to compensate for its creeping conventional vulnerabilities in relation to China and the increasing anxiety in Japan and South Korea about North Korea's growing arsenal".

The Lowy report acknowledges that the process of building trust, confidence and institutions to support regional stability will be difficult for many reasons, including history, territorial differences, nationalism, resource pressures and the changing strategic balance.

Understanding Cold War history

Dr Leonid A. Petrov, Lecturer in Korean Studies at the University of Sydney says: "To deal with Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) successfully we must remember and understand Cold War history and its consequences for the region. The reality of the inter-Korean conflict must be taken into account while engaging in dialogue or cooperation. The Korean War has never ended, and as long as regional powers help one side of the divided Korea and bully the other, the division of Korea will continue".

As the first step towards ending the conflict in north-east Asia, Dr Petrov told IDN, "Mutual recognition of both the Republic of Korea (ROK) and DPRK is necessary. A special status (neutral and non-nuclear) should be given to the Korean peninsula with no place for foreign troops or conflicting alliances. Only this would stop the century-long foreign rivalry for domination in Korea, and help the Koreans reconcile. Otherwise, China, Russia, the US and Japan will continue to be suspicious about each other's intentions in the region and would fear that a unified Korea would pose plausible threat to their respective national securities."

He suggests that by intensifying diplomatic ties and expanding economic cooperation with both halves of divided Korea, the US and its allies like Australia can make a significant contribution to the peaceful resolution of the nuclear problem and prepare the basis for durable peace and prosperity in the region.

Meanwhile, a study in the United States has warned that a billion people around the world could starve to death if India and Pakistan were involved in a nuclear exchange, and that even a "limited" war would cause significant climate disruptions. Corn production in the US would decline by 10 per cent for a decade and soybean production would drop by about 7 per cent. Rice production in China would fall by 21 per cent in the first four years.

Nine countries have 20,530 nuclear warheads among them 95 per cent with the US and Russia. "It is not just the arsenals of the US and Russia that pose a threat to the whole world. Even these smaller arsenals pose an existential threat to our civilisation, if not to our species," says Dr Ira Helfand, the author of Nuclear Famine: A Billion People at Risk – Global Impacts of Limited Nuclear War on Agriculture, Food Supplies, and Human Nutrition report produced by the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and its US affiliate, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) told Agence France Presse.

The study calls for an urgent need to reduce the reliance on nuclear weapons by all nuclear weapons states and to move with all possible speed to the negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention that will ban these weapons completely. [IDN-InDepthNews – April 28, 2012] □



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

What Others Say

U.S. Stockpile Security and Monitoring Capabilities Strengthened, Says New Report

By NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES [<http://national-academies.org>]

WASHINGTON - The United States is now in a better position than at any time in the past to maintain a safe and effective nuclear weapons stockpile without testing and to monitor clandestine nuclear testing abroad, says a new report from the National Research Council. The report, requested by the Office of the Vice President and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, reviews and updates a 2002 study that examined the technical concerns raised about the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The report does not take a position on whether the U.S. should ratify the treaty.

"So long as the nation is fully committed to securing its weapons stockpile and provides sufficient resources for doing so, the U.S. has the technical capabilities to maintain safe, reliable nuclear weapons into the foreseeable future without the need for underground weapons testing," said Ellen D. Williams, chief scientist at BP and chair of the committee that wrote the report. "In addition, U.S. and international technologies to monitor weapons testing by other countries are significantly better now than they were a decade ago."

U.S. verification of compliance with the CTBT would be accomplished through a combination of information gathered by the U.S. military and intelligence agencies, the International Monitoring System (IMS), which is now more than 80 percent complete, and other publicly available geophysical data. U.S. global monitoring capabilities are superior to those of the IMS and can focus on countries of national concern, the report says. However, the IMS provides valuable data to the U.S., both as a common baseline for international assessment and as a way of disclosing potential violations when the U.S. needs to keep its own data classified. Therefore, the U.S. should support both the completion of the IMS and its operations regardless of whether CTBT enters into force, the report says.

The improvements in the IMS and the U.S. monitoring network reduce the likelihood of undetected nuclear explosion testing and inhibit development of new types of strategic nuclear weapons, the report says. Technologies for detecting clandestine testing in four environments -- underground, underwater, in the atmosphere, and in space -- have improved significantly in the past decade. In particular, seismology, the most effective approach for monitoring underground nuclear explosion testing, can now detect underground explosions well below 1 kiloton in most regions. A kiloton is equivalent to 1,000 tons of chemical high explosive. The nuclear weapons that were used in Japan in World War II had yields in the range of 10 to 20 kilotons.

The report acknowledges that weapons threats could arise without being detected even if a test ban existed. For example, a rudimentary nuclear weapon could be built and deployed without testing by a nation with access to sufficient material, or a previously tested weapon design might be manufactured without further testing by a country that obtained the design. Such weapons could pose local or regional threats "of great concern," but they would not require the U.S. to return to weapons testing in order to respond, the report says. The U.S. already has or could produce weapons of equal or greater capability based on its own nuclear explosion test history. In addition, if the U.S. determined that there was a technical need to develop a new type of nuclear weapon that has not been tested previously, it could invoke the "supreme national interest clause" and withdraw from the CTBT.

The administration and Congress should develop and implement a comprehensive plan with a clear strategy for maintaining the nation's nuclear deterrence capabilities and competencies, the report says. The nation's Stockpile Stewardship Program, which collectively maintains the safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal in the absence of testing, has had "significant advances" in technical knowledge and capability since the 2002 report, such as completion and operation of new major research facilities. The report calls for a strong national commitment to recruiting and sustaining high-quality workers, repairing aging infrastructure, and strengthening the science, engineering, and technology base for both stockpile maintenance and monitoring capabilities.

Initiated nearly 50 years ago under President Eisenhower, negotiations for the CTBT were completed in 1996. The treaty has been signed by 182 nations, including the United States. The pact, which would prohibit nuclear weapons testing in all environments, would establish a network of monitoring stations to help track compliance and provide for inspections of suspected tests. It would permit research, development, and design activities by the nuclear-weapon states, but experiments producing a nuclear yield would be forbidden. □



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

What Others Say

US Nuclear Weapons Upgrades: Experts Report Massive Cost Increase

By MARKUS BECKER, Spiegel Online

The cost of modernizing US nuclear weapons, including those stationed in Germany, has risen sharply, according to estimates. Several independent experts told SPIEGEL ONLINE that the bill for renewing the B61 atomic bomb will rise to \$6 billion. The project will also upset Russia, they say.

The B61 is the last remnant of the Cold War in Germany. An estimated 10 to 20 of the atomic bombs are thought to remain in storage at a German Air Force base in Büchel, a village in the Eifel mountains of western Germany. Should war break out, the Tornado aircraft belonging to the German Air Force could immediately be armed with the weapons for sorties under US control.

But the fact that such a scenario is considered extremely unlikely has not prevented the US from embarking on an effort to upgrade the stockpile, as it is doing with much of its nuclear arsenal. The Life Extension Program (LEP) for the B61 -- of which there are between 160 and 200 in Europe -- is considered to be the most difficult and expensive of all. In 2010, the Department of Energy requested almost \$2 billion (€1.6 billion) for the project, to be spent over four years. Later, the number rose to \$4 billion.

Now, the total is expected to be closer to \$6 billion, as several experts have reported independently. The first to write of the exploding costs was Hans Kristensen of the Federation of American Scientists (FAS). Other experts are not surprised. "The \$6 billion estimate for B61 LEP is consistent with our estimates," wrote executive director of the Arms Control Association in Washington, Daryl Kimball, in an email.

In late April, several senators demanded that funding be cut to the B61 refurbishment program, at least until the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), which is responsible for the upgrades, presents a detailed timeline and funding plan. That the costs for the project are now three times the original estimate is not likely to meet with euphoria in Washington. The NNSA also hinted to SPIEGEL ONLINE that the expenses threaten to be higher than anticipated. "We are formally validating costs and expect to have something in the coming months," NNSA spokesman Josh McConaha said.

'Unproven Technologies'

The costs are not the only element of the refurbishment program which has experts shaking their heads. Many are uncomfortable with the sheer extent of the B61 modernization program. The NNSA wants to revamp old components, install new safety mechanisms and detonators and make improvements to the design all at the same time. Such an all-encompassing renewal effort has never been tried before, says the Union of Concerned Scientists, a group which is critical of nuclear weapons. They also warn that some of the new parts, including the detonators, are not yet ready for prime time. "You read that right," wrote UCS experts Nickolas Roth and Stephen Young on the group's website. "The multi-point safety and new detonators are unproven, immature technologies."

In short, the project -- should it succeed despite the high costs and technical hurdles -- is not merely limited to extending the weapons' lifespans, but would be akin to creating a new weapon altogether. Should the improved B61 weapons find their way back to bases in Europe in 2019 as planned, they "will in essence be a strategic bomb," FAS expert Kristensen told SPIEGEL ONLINE. "They will be able to hold at risk targets that the weapons in Europe currently cannot hold at risk."

Tactical atomic weapons like the B61 are designed to be deployed against enemy soldiers on the battlefield. They tend to be much less powerful than strategic nuclear weapons, which can be deployed to neutralize an enemy country's nuclear arsenal or even destroy entire cities. The modernized B61, Kristensen fears, could change from being a tactical weapon to a strategic one.

The B61 modernization program envisions modifying four existing bomb models (or "mods") -- the 3, 4, 7 and 10 -- into one, the B61 Mod. 12. An important new feature is a new tailkit with controllable flaps. The new system would dramatically increase the bomb's precision. ➔



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

What Others Say

The new B61-12 will be able to carry four different warheads, which range in strength from 0.3 to 45 kilotons of TNT. As a comparison, the bomb dropped on Hiroshima at the end of World War II had a strength of 15 kilotons. "This weapon can do the same amount of damage militarily as the very high-yield weapon attached to the B61-7," says Kristensen. Götz Neuneck, from the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, likewise warns of the "drastically improved mission capabilities" of the B61.

In addition to the upgrades, the bombs are also to be carried by the stealth fighter F-35, which is currently in development. The weapon and the fighter jet are to be perfectly compatible, such that the F-35 -- also known as the Joint Strike Fighter -- will be able to stow two of the bombs in its hold. Such a capability could provoke new trouble with Russia, which is already unhappy with the planned European missile defense shield.

"I'll bet there are hardliners in the Kremlin who are already now looking at this issue and saying 'aha, this is another example of NATO saying one thing and doing another,'" says Kristensen. "There are always irritants. This is going to be another one."

ACA director Kimball agrees. "Deployment of the B61-12 in Europe would complicate the effort to bring Russia to the tactical nuclear weapons negotiating table," he says. Neuneck also echoes the sentiment. The B61-12, he says, would greatly impede negotiations on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and would put an end to efforts to withdraw all atomic weapons from Europe.

Whereas most concerns are focused on the B61-12 with the largest warhead, the smallest warheads with a strength of just 1.5 kilotons or even 0.3 kilotons could likewise present considerable dangers. "If you have increased accuracy, it opens up new possibilities for also using the lower yields for missions," says Kristensen. The biggest advantage is less radioactive fallout. "The pressure and the heat from the explosion gets closer to ground zero, exactly where it has to go off. You don't have to use as much explosive power and there is less fallout. It's a cleaner nuclear attack."

Neuneck also says that the "smaller size and increased accuracy" of the mini-nukes "would make their actual use more likely."

The US government has long sought to develop such miniature atomic weapons. Strategic nuclear weapons have long since become so powerful that their deployment no longer seems likely. As such, they no longer represent much of a threat. Smaller atomic weapons, many politicians and military leaders believe, would pose more of a credible threat because of the increased likelihood that they would actually be used.

The development of such weapons, however, has repeatedly failed to overcome objections from the US Congress. A majority of congressmen and women believe their development is simply too dangerous because they would lower the barriers for use. In 2005, the administration of US President George W. Bush had to abandon plans for the development of such mini-nukes.

In the current Nuclear Posture Review, which guides US nuclear weapons doctrine, it states that the military capabilities of the warheads are not to be altered. "And that's true" says Kristensen. "But it says nothing about whether they will improve the accuracy of this weapon by putting a new tail pin on it." As in the case of the new tail guidance system on the B61. "There is a backdoor to modernization that is being actively used."

When it comes to Germany and other European countries, the B61 problem could solve itself. Germany's military, the Bundeswehr, intends to mothball its Tornado fleet in 2020. Its successor, the Eurofighter, will not be able to carry atomic weapons as it is currently designed. Modification costs would have to be paid by Germany itself. "Given the current domestic policy debates, there would seem to be little support for new airplanes," says Neuneck.

In the end, the high costs of the modernization program could ultimately kill it. That, at least, is the hope of Richard Burt, a former US ambassador to Germany and a leading member of the Global Zero initiative. "We seriously doubt whether this LEP program will be pursued to the end," Burt told SPIEGEL ONLINE. "It might well be postponed indefinitely given the reported cost overrun." □



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

What Others Say

A Nuclear Clash Could Starve the World

By Jayantha Dhanapala and Ira Helfand, Special to CNN



Jayantha Dhanapala



Ira Helfand

Editor's note: Jayantha Dhanapala is a former ambassador to the United States from Sri Lanka, U.N. under-secretary general for disarmament and chairman of the 1995 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review and Extension Conference. Ira Helfand is the past president of Physicians for Social Responsibility and current North American vice president of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

(CNN | May 11) -- Recent ballistic missile tests by India, Pakistan and North Korea -- which has ominously threatened to "reduce to ashes" the South Korean military "in minutes" -- are once again focusing the world's attention on the dangers of nuclear war.

This concern was dramatically underscored in a new report released at the Nobel Peace Laureates Summit in Chicago. Titled "Nuclear Famine: A Billion People at Risk" (PDF), the study shows that even a limited nuclear war, involving less than half of 1% of the world's nuclear arsenals, would cause climate disruption that could set off a global famine.

The study, prepared by International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and its U.S. affiliate, Physicians for Social Responsibility, used a scenario of 100 Hiroshima-sized bombs exploded in a war between India and Pakistan. If there were such a war, the study estimated that 1 billion people, one-sixth of the human race, could starve over the following decade.

Along with recent events, these findings require a fundamental change in our thinking about nuclear weapons.

The study, in positing a war between India and Pakistan, shows the importance of understanding that smaller nuclear powers, not just the United States and Russia, pose a threat to the whole world.

But the greater lesson concerns the forces of the larger nuclear powers. Each U.S. Trident submarine can destroy 100 cities and produce the global famine described in the study. The United States has 14 of them, a fleet of land-based nuclear missiles, and an arsenal of nuclear weapons that can be delivered by bombers. The Russians possess the same grotesque overkill capacity.

Even the most ambitious arms reductions under discussion would leave the United States and Russia with 300 warheads each, most of them 10 to 30 times larger than a Hiroshima sized bomb. This would be a massive arsenal capable of producing the global famine scenario many, many times over.

These arsenals are an archaic, but lethal, holdover from the Cold War. Their continued existence poses an ongoing threat to all humanity.

Steps can and should be taken immediately to lessen this danger. Substantial numbers of these weapons remain on what The New York Times has described as "hair-trigger alert." They can be fired in 15 minutes or less and destroy cities a continent away 30 minutes later. This alert posture creates the needless danger of an accidental or unintended launch, and the United States and Russia have had many close calls, preparing to launch a nuclear strike at the other under the mistaken belief they were under attack. ☹



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

What Others Say



"Over 25 years ago, President Ronald Reagan and I ended our summit meeting in Geneva with a joint statement that 'Nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought,' and this new study underscores in stunning and disturbing detail why this is the case."

The most recent of these near-misses that we know about took place in January 1995, well after the end of the Cold War. The United States and Russia should stand down their nuclear arsenals so that it takes longer to launch their missiles, lessening the danger of an accidental war. U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin can take this step on their own without negotiating a formal treaty.

Beyond this, it is time to begin urgent talks aimed at reducing the U.S. and Russian arsenals as the next essential step toward multilateral negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, a binding, verifiable, enforceable treaty that eliminates nuclear weapons altogether.

As former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev observed on reviewing the new "Nuclear Famine" study: "I am convinced that nuclear weapons must be abolished. Their use in a military conflict is unthinkable; using them to achieve political objectives is immoral."

"Over 25 years ago, President Ronald Reagan and I ended our summit meeting in Geneva with a joint statement that 'Nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought,' and this new study underscores in stunning and disturbing detail why this is the case." □



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

Civil Society Perspective

The Shame of Nations: A New Record is Set for Spending on War

By LAWRENCE WITTNER*

IPPNW | April 23, 2012 - On April 17, 2012, as millions of Americans were filing their income tax returns, the highly-respected Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its latest study of world military spending. In case Americans were wondering where most of their tax money — and the tax money of other nations — went in the previous year, the answer from SIPRI was clear: to war and preparations for war.

World military spending reached a record \$1,738 billion in 2011 — an increase of \$138 billion over the previous year. The United States accounted for 41 percent of that, or \$711 billion.

Some news reports have emphasized that, from the standpoint of reducing reliance on armed might, this actually represents progress. After all, the increase in “real” global military spending — that is, expenditures after corrections for inflation and exchange rates — was only 0.3 percent. And this contrasts with substantially larger increases in the preceding thirteen years.

But why are military expenditures continuing to increase — indeed, why aren't they substantially decreasing — given the governmental austerity measures of recent years? Amid the economic crisis that began in late 2008 (and which continues to the present day), most governments have been cutting back their spending dramatically on education, health care, housing, parks, and other vital social services. However, there have not been corresponding cuts in their military budgets.

Americans, particularly, might seek to understand why in this context U.S. military spending has not been significantly decreased, instead of being raised by \$13 billion — admittedly a “real dollar” decrease of 1.2 percent, but hardly one commensurate with Washington's wholesale slashing of social spending. Yes, military expenditures by China and Russia increased in 2011. And in “real” terms, too. But, even so, their military strength hardly rivals that of the United States. Indeed, the United States spent about five times as much as China (the world's #2 military power) and ten times as much as Russia (the world's #3 military power) on its military forces during 2011. Furthermore, when U.S. allies like Britain, France, Germany, and Japan are factored in, it is clear that the vast bulk of world military expenditures are made by the United States and its military allies.

This might account for the fact that the government of China, which accounts for only 8.2 percent of world military spending, believes that increasing its outlay on armaments is reasonable and desirable. Apparently, officials of many nations share that competitive feeling.

Unfortunately, the military rivalry among nations — one that has endured for centuries — results in a great squandering of national resources. Many nations, in fact, devote most of their available income to funding their armed forces and their weaponry. In the United States, an estimated 58 percent of the U.S. government's discretionary tax dollars go to war and preparations for war. “Almost every country with a military is on an insane path, spending more and more on missiles, aircraft, and guns,” remarked John Feffer, co-director of Foreign Policy in Focus. “These countries should be confronting the real threats of climate change, hunger, disease, and oppression, not wasting taxpayers' money on their military.”

Of course, defenders of military expenditures reply that military force actually protects people from war. But does it? If so, how does one explain the fact that the major military powers of the past century — the United States, Russia, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, and China — have been almost constantly at war during that time? What is the explanation for the fact that the United States — today's military giant — is currently engaged in at least two wars (in Iraq and Afghanistan) and appears to be on the verge of a third (with Iran)? Perhaps the maintenance of a vast military machine does not prevent war but, instead, encourages it.

*Lawrence S. Wittner is professor of history emeritus at SUNY/Albany. His latest book is “Working for Peace and Justice: Memoirs of an Activist Intellectual” (University of Tennessee Press). ➔



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

Civil Society Perspective

In short, huge military establishments can be quite counterproductive. Little wonder that they have been condemned repeatedly by great religious and ethical leaders. Even many government officials have decried war and preparations for war — although usually by nations other than their own. Thus, the release of the new study by SIPRI should not be a cause for celebration. Rather, it provides an appropriate occasion to contemplate the fact that, this past year, nations spent more money on the military than at any time in human history. Although this situation might still inspire joy in the hearts of government officials, top military officers, and defense contractors, people farther from the levers of military power might well conclude that it's a hell of a way to run a world. ☐

100 Nuclear Explosions - A billion People Starve to Death

By JOHN LORETZ

IPPNW | April 24, 2012 - A new IPPNW/PSR study released today at the annual Nobel Peace Laureates Summit in Chicago offers compelling scientific evidence that most of the nuclear arsenals in the world —whether large or small— threaten everyone on Earth. The consequences for global agriculture of a nuclear war between India and Pakistan, for example, would be so severe and long lasting that we must now fundamentally change our thinking about nuclear weapons and redouble our efforts to eliminate them, according to the study's author, Ira Helfand.

Dr. Helfand has been working in close consultation with climate scientists Alan Robock, O. B. Toon, and others since 2007, when their research into the global climate effects of a nuclear war using only 100 Hiroshima-sized weapons was featured at an IPPNW conference held in London with the Royal Society of Medicine.

Robock, Toon, and their colleagues—many of whom had worked together with Carl Sagan on the “nuclear winter” studies produced during the Cold War—had come to the startling and largely unexpected conclusion that even a fraction of the nuclear weapons contained in the bloated US and Russian arsenals could disrupt the global climate so severely that the world's major agricultural centers would sustain unprecedented damage for at least a decade.

Based on existing data about global food reserves, the nutritional status of impoverished populations, and historical evidence about the relationship between volcano-induced climate change and past famines, Dr. Helfand came to a tentative conclusion that a famine caused by the climate effects of a nuclear war on this scale could leave a billion people or more without sufficient food to survive.

What the climate studies did not spell out were the likely percentage declines in specific crops, such as corn and rice, in specific agricultural regions, along with the effects on food availability and prices and the resultant nutritional impact on at-risk populations. A grant from the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs enabled Dr. Helfand to organize a research project that could start to produce some concrete and reliable data with which to address these questions.

Nuclear Famine: A Billion People at Risk—Global Impacts of Limited Nuclear War on Agriculture, Food Supplies, and Human Nutrition, released today with IPPNW's US affiliate Physicians for Social Responsibility, outlines research findings soon to be published in the peer-reviewed journal *Climatic Change*.

From the executive summary:

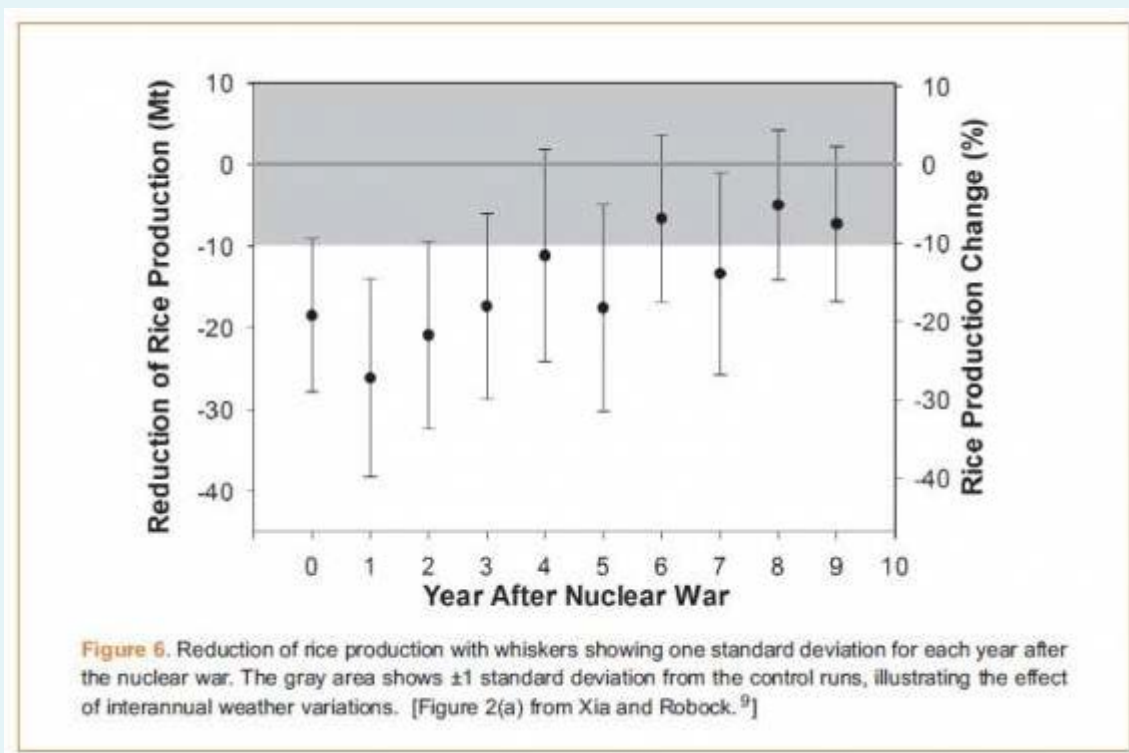
- In the US, corn production would decline by an average of 10% for an entire decade, with the most severe decline (20%) in year 5. For soybeans, the decline in production would be about 7%, with the most severe loss, more than 20%, in year 5.
- During the first 4 years, rice production [in China] would decline by an average of 21%; over the next 6 years the decline would average 10%.
- The decline in available food would be exacerbated by increases in food prices which would make food inaccessible to hundreds of millions of the world's poorest. Even if agricultural markets continued to function normally, 215 million people would be added to the rolls of the malnourished over the course of a decade.
- The 925 million people in the world who are chronically malnourished have a baseline consumption of 1,750 calories or less per day. Even a 10% decline in their food consumption would put this entire group at risk.
- The number of people threatened by nuclear-war induced famine would be well over one billion. ☹



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

Civil Society Perspective



Dr. Helfand says that while more research remains to be done if we're to have a comprehensive data set about the agricultural and nutritional consequences of nuclear wars, regardless of size, there is only one policy conclusion to be drawn from these new findings.

“The death of one billion people over a decade would be a disaster unprecedented in human history,” he said. “It would not cause the extinction of the human race, but it would bring an end to modern civilization as we know it.

“The danger identified in this report requires a fundamental change in our thinking about nuclear weapons. We must now recognize that it is not just the arsenals of the nuclear super powers that threaten all humanity. Even the smaller arsenals of emerging nuclear powers like India and Pakistan pose a global threat.”

Nevertheless, as a US doctor with a clinical practice in Massachusetts, Dr, Helfand recognizes the potential for destruction in the American arsenal:

“A single US Trident submarine has the ability to destroy 100 cities and create the global famine described in this paper. We have 14 of them, as part of a vast arsenal of nuclear weapons that are also based on surface ships, land-based missiles, and long-range bombers.

“Even the most ambitious current proposals for nuclear arms reductions would leave the US and Russia with many times the nuclear fire power needed to create a global disaster on the scale described in this study.”

Mikhail Gorbachev agrees. The former Soviet president and founding chairman of Green Cross International, upon reading an advance copy of the report, told Dr. Helfand he is convinced that “nuclear weapons must be abolished. Their use in a military conflict is unthinkable; using them to achieve political objectives is immoral. Over twenty-five years ago, President Ronald Reagan and I ended our summit meeting in Geneva with a joint statement that ‘nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought,’ and this new study underscores in stunning and disturbing detail why this is the case and why we must discard Cold War-style plans for the possible use of these weapons and move rapidly to eliminating them from the world’s arsenals.”

There are nine current heads of state who need to embrace that same conviction. □



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

Civil Society Perspective

Norway Plans International Conference on Humanitarian Impact of Nukes in 2013



GENEVA, April 20, 2012 - ICAN warmly welcomes the announcement by Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre that Norway will host a meeting in Oslo in 2013 on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. Referring to the increasing momentum towards a ban on nuclear weapons, including the resolution "Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons" adopted at the Red Cross/Red Crescent's Council of Delegates meeting last November, Mr Støre announced on Tuesday to the Norwegian parliament that "a conference in Oslo to highlight

different aspects of nuclear weapons as a humanitarian problem" is scheduled to take place next spring.

The Chair of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Dr Tilman Ruff, welcomes the announcement, saying that it "demonstrates that governments are still prepared to rise to the challenge posed by nuclear weapons for our societies, our environment and our security. All governments, whether or not they own nuclear weapons, share a responsibility to remove this common danger".

"This is a critical moment for nuclear prohibition," says Dr Ruff. "The humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons has too often been put at the margins of nuclear disarmament, privileging a security-centered debate. It is high time that states start to consider the real catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons."

Noting that this is a good opportunity for policymakers from different countries to come together, ICAN Norway campaign coordinator Magnus Løvold says that "this should not be just another diplomatic meeting, but should lead to a clear road map for a new humanitarian and legal standard. ICAN calls on Norway and the other participating governments to use the meeting as a stepping stone towards negotiations for a treaty to ban nuclear weapons".

Dr Ruff concludes: "The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, a coalition representing more than 200 member NGOs present in 60 countries worldwide, fully endorses this initiative and is committed to mobilizing public support around the world to encourage such a process." □

Cut Nuclear Spending

ICAN | April 17, 2012 – Nuclear weapons spending in 2012 is likely to exceed US\$100 billion despite continuing global financial strains and a renewed commitment by governments to achieve nuclear disarmament, according to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), which is today taking part in the Global Day of Action on Military Spending.

"Every dollar spent on nuclear weapons is a diversion of public resources away from health care, education and poverty alleviation," said Geneva-based ICAN campaigner Arielle Denis. "Any use of nuclear weapons would cause catastrophic humanitarian harm and breach international law. Investing in these ultimate instruments of terror is patently unacceptable. It fosters investments in all other kinds of weapons."

Worldwide, nuclear weapons spending in 2011 was around \$105 billion – which is more than the gross domestic product of Bangladesh, a nation of 160 million people. One year's nuclear weapons expenditure is equal to four decades of the regular UN budget of US\$2.5 billion, or 14 years of UN peacekeeping missions, according to ICAN calculations.

The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs has an operating budget of approximately US\$10 million a year – less than the amount that the nine nuclear armed nations spend on their nuclear arsenals every hour. Money that is currently allocated to nuclear weapons could be freed up and redirected towards meeting the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals. ➔



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

Civil Society Perspective

“As millions across the globe go hungry and are denied access to clean water, basic medicines and sanitation, the nuclear-armed nations are spending around US\$300 million every day on their nuclear forces,” said Melbourne-based ICAN campaigner Tim Wright. “Obviously, there are better ways to spend this money than on weapons that threaten us all.”

US spending on nuclear weapons accounts for more than half of the global total. In 2011 it spent an estimated US\$61.3 billion modernizing and maintaining its stockpile of 8,500 nuclear warheads and the related infrastructure, which is about twice as much as it spent on foreign aid, and equal to the combined GDP of Sudan and South Sudan.

“The vast outlays on the modernization of nuclear arsenals cast serious doubt on the sincerity of our leaders’ pledges to work for a world without nuclear weapons, suggesting instead a commitment to retain such weapons indefinitely. As nuclear weapons start to lose their status and role, people are more and more questioning their outrageous costs. A new momentum is raising within non-nuclear-armed states to challenge the world’s nuclear addiction and demand negotiations for a ban on nuclear weapons,” said Ms Denis.

Last month ICAN launched a groundbreaking report identifying more than 300 financial institutions in 30 countries that invest in nuclear weapons companies from the United States, Europe and India. ICAN is calling on these financial institutions to end their support for the nuclear weapons industry.

“Banks and other financial institutions should be called upon to do the right thing and assist, rather than impede, efforts to eliminate the threat of radioactive incineration by divesting from the immoral nuclear arms industry,” wrote Nobel Peace Prize laureate and ICAN supporter Archbishop Desmond Tutu in the foreword to the report. □



"Act now to create a WMD-Free Zone in the Middle East"

CND | April 27, 2012 - This is the message from supporters of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) to Ambassador Peter Woolcott, who will this weekend chair the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Preparatory Committee in Vienna.

Kate Hudson, CND General Secretary, will deliver personalised messages from CND supporters to Ambassador Woolcott, calling on the conference to take 'concrete action' towards a Weapons of Mass Destruction-Free Zone (WMDFZ) in the Middle East, and make further progress on global disarmament.

In 2010, 189 countries voted at the NPT Review Conference for steps to be taken towards implementing a WMDFZ in the Middle East. The result was the scheduling of a landmark conference, convened by Finland, to take place in late 2012. This conference aims to bring to the table all states in the Middle East in order to start face-to-face negotiations towards outlawing nuclear weapons and other WMDs in the Middle East.

'The vision of a WMD-Free Zone in the Middle East can only be realised through a combined approach of constructive debate and concrete action,' said Kate Hudson.

'The timing is critical. Tensions in the Middle East have heightened amidst speculation over Iran's nuclear ambitions, and this has not been helped by aggressive rhetoric.'

'Meanwhile, nuclear weapons states are ignoring their own disarmament obligations and are ploughing ahead with replacing and modernising their nuclear arsenals. This only serves to encourage further proliferation and make the world a more dangerous place.'

'WMD-Free Zones have been implemented in other areas of the world such as South America and Africa, and there is currently no more crucial region for this to come about than the Middle East. We must act now or consign future generations to a lifetime of insecurity.' □



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

Civil Society Perspective

Stick with No to NATO...

By KATE HUDSON*



CND | April 20 - All anti-nuclear campaigners have been heartened by the SNP's vigorous and principled opposition to nuclear weapons and commitment to a nuclear weapon free world. Indeed, the SNP has provoked a storm of debate and controversy in recent weeks by their insistence that if independent, under their leadership, Scotland would evict Trident altogether. That was great news indeed, notwithstanding inevitable suggestions from nay-sayers that it was practically impossible.

Subsequently however, there have been media reports which suggest that the SNP National Council meeting in June will discuss amending the party's opposition to Scottish membership of NATO. Of course this may be just a rumour, but if adopted, such an amendment would be a retrograde step and so in the spirit of constructive debate I sent a letter along the following lines to SNP parliamentarians:

'At CND we regret such speculation and hope the party will demonstrate it is just that, and reaffirm SNP opposition to both Trident and NATO. From the maintenance of its commitment to nuclear weapons, to its post-Cold War expansion and its out-of-area military operations such as Afghanistan - NATO has developed in a dangerous and deplorable direction and it has been inspiring to see the SNP taking a principled stand in questioning the role of NATO today.

My particular concern is that a weakening, or reversing, of the party's existing position on NATO will necessitate a change of position on Trident and nuclear weapons possession. As you will be well aware, NATO's Strategic Concept states that 'as long as there are nuclear weapons in the world, NATO will remain a nuclear alliance', and the UK's Trident system is assigned to NATO's Nuclear Planning Group.



As others both for and against Trident have argued, there would be a fundamental inconsistency in accepting the role of nuclear weapons in NATO's security, but demanding their removal from Scottish territory. It is worth considering the situation that other non-nuclear weapon states in NATO find themselves.

Ahead of the NATO Strategic Summit in 2009, the German government decided it no longer wished to host nuclear weapons on its soil and decided to push for the removal of NATO-assigned US tactical nuclear weapons from German territory. But it was unable to secure their removal as agreement was not forthcoming from all NATO states. Similarly, the Belgian and Dutch governments have sought the removal of NATO-assigned US tactical nuclear weapons from their territory - with no success.

These examples strengthen the case for those who question how an independent Scotland could join NATO and simultaneously expel Trident from the Clyde naval base, given the inconvenience it would cause a fellow NATO government at Westminster.'

I very much hope that these factors will be taken into account if the SNP consider amending their current policy.

*Dr. Kate Hudson has been General Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament since September 2010. Prior to this she served as the organisation's Chair from 2003. She is a leading anti-nuclear and anti-war campaigner nationally and internationally. She is also author of 'CND Now More than Ever: The Story of a Peace Movement'. □



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

Translations | Adaptations

Threat of 'Nuclear Terror' Diverts Abolition Efforts



JAPANESE

核廃絶のエネルギーを削ぐ「核の恐怖」の脅威
【IPSコラム=ケビン・クレメンツ】

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=669:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

Impassioned Plea for Averting War with Iran

JAPANESE



| 英国 | イランとの戦争回避へ、熱烈な呼びかけ
【ロンドンIDN=リチャード・ジョンソン】

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=664:impassioned-plea-for-averting-war-with-iran-japanese&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

Asia: Dangers of Extended Nuclear Deterrence



GERMAN

ASIEN: Die Gefahren der erweiterten nuklearen Abschreckung
Sydney – Nach dem gescheiterten Raketenstart Nordkoreas führten die verfeindeten Atommächte Indien und Pakistan ihrerseits Raketentests durch. Diese Entwicklung spricht für die These einer neuen Untersuchung, wonach ein tiefes strategisches Misstrauen atomare Abrüstungspläne verhindert.

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=670:asien-die-gefahren-der-erweiterten-nuklearen-abschreckung-&catid=5:german&Itemid=6

JAPANESE

| アジア | 拡大核抑止の危険性
【シドニーIDN=ニーナ・バンダリ】

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=671:asia-dangers-of-extended-nuclear-deterrence-japanese&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3 □

Visit www.nuclearabolition.net

Publisher: Global Cooperation Council (umbrella organisation of IPS-Inter Press Service Deutschland gGmbH, Berlin)

SGI-IPS Project Director: Katsuhiko Asagiri, President IPS Japan, Tokyo

SGI-IPS Project Coordinator & Editor-in-Charge: Ramesh Jaura

© 2010 2012 IPS-Inter Press Service

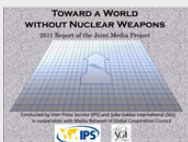


BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH APRIL 2012 ARTICLES

TOWARD A NUCLEAR FREE WORLD  A A A

- Home
- Japanese | Korean
- Arabic
- Chinese | Hindi | Urdu | Persian
- Dutch
- Finnish
- French
- German
- Italian
- Norwegian | Swedish
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Turkish
- Sitemap

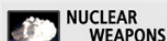



Best viewed with Acrobat 7.0 and later versions.



Best viewed with Acrobat 7.0 and later versions.

RELATED WEB SITES



 The World's Deadly Arsenal

 People's Decade for Nuclear Abolition
Act to make a difference!

 SGI Videos Online
SGIVideosOnline's Channel



 CTBTO
PREPARATORY COMMISSION

 IAEA.org
International Atomic Energy Agency

 IPPNW

Nuclear Abolition News and Analysis

Asia: Dangers of Extended Nuclear Deterrence



Nuclear Abolition News | IDN

By NEENA BHANDARI
IDN-InDepth NewsAnalysis

SYDNEY (IDN) - With India and Pakistan testing nuclear-capable ballistic missiles this April, close on the heels of North Korea's unsuccessful test launch of a long-range rocket, a new report by the Sydney-based [Lowy Institute for International Policy](#) says it is Asian strategic mistrust that is

holding back nuclear disarmament. [P] [GERMAN](#) | [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

▶ [READ MORE...](#)

Threat of 'Nuclear Terror' Diverts Abolition Efforts

Nuclear Abolition News | IPS

By KEVIN P. CLEMENTS *

DUNEDIN, New Zealand (IPS) - President Barack Obama indicated in Prague in 2009 that he was interested in achieving a "world without nuclear weapons." Since that bold statement (which was one of the reasons for his Nobel peace prize) he has been persuaded by his foreign policy advisors and pressured by the Nuclear Weapons Laboratories to put nuclear abolition on hold and to focus instead on issues such as nuclear safety and nuclear security. [P] [JAPANESE TEXT PDF](#)



▶ [READ MORE...](#)

Impassioned Plea for Averting War with Iran



Nuclear Abolition News | IDN

By RICHARD JOHNSON
IDN-InDepth NewsReport

LONDON (IDN) - Pax Christi, the International Catholic Movement for Peace, has made an impassioned plea for averting war with Iran. "Surely such a war would spell worldwide disaster, and it's up to movements like us to send a strong message against military aggression," [Pax Christi](#) said in an important document.

"A war with Iran, to which a military attack would inevitably lead, would be a disaster for the whole

world and any talk of a pre-emptive attack must be challenged as illegal and immoral," it said indirectly referring to Israeli threats of an assault on Iran. [P] [JAPANESE TEXT PDF](#)

▶ [READ MORE...](#)

The Paradox of the Nuclear Age

Nuclear Abolition News | IPS

By RONALD MCCOY*

KUALA LUMPUR (IPS) - Climate change and nuclear war are the two most serious threats to human security and planetary survival.

Governments are addressing the causes of climate change and the prevention of nuclear war, but political will to reduce greenhouse gases and eradicate nuclear weapons needs to be further strengthened.

Climate change is now visible and palpable, but the threat of nuclear war remains relatively abstract and unperceived among some complacent world leaders, despite the presence of thousands of nuclear weapons in a world that still resolves conflict by going to war. [P] [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)



SUBSCRIBE NEWSLETTER

Sign up for Nuclear Abolition free monthly newsletter with in-depth reports, analyses of civil society's work on the ground and columns by experts.

Name

E-mail

Subscribe
 Unsubscribe

SEARCH

ABOUT US

[Who We Are](#)
[Why Now](#)
[Background](#)

This website is part of a media project at the initiative of

SGI
Soka Gakkai International

Global Coordination
IPS Deutschland

Launched by
IDN-InDepthNews
Analysis That Matters
in partnership with the

 GLOBAL COOPERATION COUNCIL
Nord-Süd Forum e. V.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION
A Monthly Newsletter for Strengthening Awareness of Nuclear Abolition



April 2011-March 2012
[March 2012](#)
[February 2012](#)
[January 2012](#)

This website is part of a media project at the initiative of

