



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH JANUARY 2012 ARTICLES

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In-Depth Reports

Global Support Peaks For No Nukes

GENEVA - A new and compelling story about nuclear weapons is emerging around the world. The new story is having an impact because it is one that many can own. It displaces nuclear fiction with nuclear facts. 2012 has begun with sabre-rattling in the Middle East and will end with new leadership in five nuclear-armed states. What is this new story and what can it bring? **Read more on pages 2-3**

The Long Slow March to Nuke Abolition

BERLIN - "We want a nuclear weapons free world." More than 80 percent of people around the globe have expressed this overwhelming desire to authors of a new report. But a close look shows that very little is happening rather slowly in terms of reducing nukes and putting a halt to proliferation. This is cause of profound concern also to atomic scientists. **Read more on pages 4-5**

What Others Say

Security Benefits of Nuclear Abolition to USA

ANNAPOLIS, USA - The alarm over the Iranian nuclear program calls for reflection on the ultimate cause of all nuclear weapons-related threats: the absence of a worldwide ban on nuclear weapons. Focusing on the USA, below are security benefits of nuclear abolition – with axioms being that all states have joined a treaty banning nuclear weapons before it enters into force, and that worldwide inspection (verification) applies, and that before signing the nuclear ban treaty, states must fully join the current chem-bio weapons bans: 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and 1972 Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). **Read more on pages 6-7**

Solidarity and Commitment for Nuke Abolition

TOKYO - On November 26 last year, a resolution calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons was successfully adopted at the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This landmark development proved highly encouraging for civil society organizations working for the abolition of nuclear weapons. As one such organization, we (Soka Gakkai International) would also like to express our heartfelt respect and acclaim for the adopted resolution. **Read more on pages 8-10**

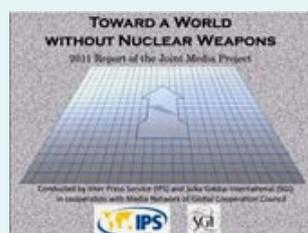
U.S. Expectations of Conference on Disarmament

By Rose Gottemoeller | Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance
Read more on pages 11-14

Civil Society Perspective Go to page 15

Translations | Adaptations Go to pages 16

Compilation of Articles April 2010-March 2011



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



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

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Global Support Peaks For No Nukes

By Jonathan Frerichs*



GENEVA - A new and compelling story about nuclear weapons is emerging around the world. The new story is having an impact because it is one that many can own. It displaces nuclear fiction with nuclear facts. 2012 has begun with sabre-rattling in the Middle East and will end with new leadership in five nuclear-armed states. What is this new story and what can it bring?

The shortest version of the story is the one told by the new International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). Ask anyone, "Can you imagine a world without nuclear weapons?" Expect the reply: "I can."

A slightly longer version emerged at a year-end seminar of international church-related advocates that met in Scotland, where many favour nuclear disarmament.

We live under a nuclear 'umbrella' that is outdated, unwieldy, extremely costly, and doesn't even work. People today see themselves as part of a global community. They want to live in ways that protect life instead of putting it at risk. Nuclear weapons are wrong and need to go. It's time to get involved. Each person can do his or her part; all can make a big difference, together.

The new story is making nuclear weapons more vulnerable. There is a new level of political and social pressure within leadership circles: 130 governments now support a Nuclear Weapons Convention at the United Nations, while 5000 mayors and thousands of parliamentarians and eminent citizens have joined nuclear abolition initiatives. Challenges to the weapons are geographic (nuclear-weapon-free zones), legal (humanitarian law), and financial (national deficits, sovereign debts and citizen divestment).

Government and military leaders are debunking nuclear strategies; climate science are indicting nukes environmentally; physicians, scientists, and lawyers are delegitimising nuclear arms; films, web-sites, and books are generating public debate; and world religions are condemning nuclear weapons morally, ethically, and spiritually. A disaster like Fukushima reminds people that even in its peaceful guise nuclear energy is lethal and causes lasting damage.

The international construct that shelters nuclear arms is coming apart. More and more people see no place for such weapons in human, ecological, and planetary affairs.

And yet those who challenge the current nuclear regime are by no means overcome with optimism. It is disturbing to watch the five percent of governments that are nuclear armed reject the common good and refuse their obligation to disarm while the 95 percent of governments that don't have nuclear weapons fail to implement the majority will to see them abolished.

The new and the old nuclear 'stories' offer different scenarios in 2012. Here are three examples:

First, Northeast Asia -a region where the umbrella of nuclear deterrence is outdated and leaky and where we can see how the shaky status-quo, the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), is collapsing. Though 'nuclear security' in Northeast Asia is a contradiction in terms, this year's Nuclear Security Summit will be held in Seoul.

The new nuclear story would draw regional lessons from what the Korean UN General Secretary has instructively called 'the infectious doctrine of deterrence'. Eight of the nine states that practice nuclear deterrence are invited to the summit, and the ninth state is next door. Infection needs a cure, for example, open-ended engagement around a shared regional goal such as denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. ➔

*Jonathan Frerichs is programme executive for peace-building and disarmament for the World Council of Churches.



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In-Depth Reports

The ecumenical workshop in Scotland discussed confidence-building measures by Christians and Buddhists to help put that goal higher on the public agenda. Churches have been challenging the status quo from both sides of the DMZ for the past 25 years.

Second, the Middle East, another region where nuclear umbrellas don't work, is so ripe for proliferation that the very future of the NPT is tied to establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone there. A UN conference on that goal is slated for 2012 after a 17-year delay.

Yet the old nuclear story looms over the conference. Irresponsible rhetoric is again pushing the myopic view that enforcing the nuclear double standard is the solution for the Middle East, not the problem. While Israel is not a member of the NPT, its neighbours who are members have been expected to live with its nuclear weapons as if it were an NPT nuclear-weapon state. This is an improbable recipe for security of any kind. It is a prescription for proliferation by others in the Middle East, and elsewhere.

The new nuclear story is about the well-being of all states in the region, including Israel. A zone free of all WMDs including nuclear is part of the scenario from the outset. A regional process in the 1990s set a useful precedent by using incentives, reciprocity, and mutual commitments to solve delicate security issues.

Third, NATO is an alliance whose nuclear weapons are unusable and a waste of money. The organisation's 200-odd tactical nuclear weapons are emblematic of how much the aging behemoths of the Cold War still have in their nuclear arsenals and what little sense that makes. Removing these deadly relics would reduce the number of countries hosting nuclear weapons to nine from fourteen. It would also remove a major obstacle to new security arrangements between NATO and Russia.

In 2010 NATO and Russia agreed on 'contributing to the creation of a common space of peace, security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area'. Will NATO's 2012 summit in Chicago follow the new story or the old?

In the new nuclear story, nuclear archaeologists are used to understand the past and human security architects are proposing the future. Northeast Asia, the Middle East, and NATO are critical sites. The task is daunting and more hands are needed, but the precedent of progress is already set. Each New Year can now become part of our safer future rather than a vestige of the nuclear past. [IPS Columnist Service | January 2012]

NATO Defence Ministers meet in Brussels | 2-3 February 2012





BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH JANUARY 2012 ARTICLES

In-Depth Reports

The Long Slow March to Nuke Abolition

By Jamshed Baruah



BERLIN - "We want a nuclear weapons free world." More than 80 percent of people around the globe have expressed this overwhelming desire to authors of a new report. But a close look shows that very little is happening rather slowly in terms of reducing nukes and putting a halt to proliferation. This is cause of profound concern also to atomic scientists.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) released a study on January 16, which says that every country in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa is in favour of a treaty banning nuclear weapons, as are most nations in Asia, the Pacific and the Middle East. But in Europe and North America, particularly among members of the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) nuclear alliance, support for a ban on nukes is weakest.

ICAN's report, titled 'Towards a Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons', comes one week after the Doomsday Clock of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists was moved one minute closer to midnight in response to growing nuclear dangers around the world and a lack of progress towards nuclear abolition. The last time the Doomsday Clock minute hand moved was in January 2010, when the Clock's minute hand was pushed back one minute from five to six minutes before midnight.

The Clock has become a universally recognized indicator of the world's vulnerability to catastrophe from nuclear weapons, climate change, and emerging technologies in the life sciences.

The Science and Security Board of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (BAS) moved the Clock one minute closer to midnight after reviewing the implications of recent events and trends for the future of humanity with input from other experts on nuclear weapons, nuclear energy, climate change, and biosecurity.

In a formal statement on January 10, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists noted: "It is five minutes to midnight. Two years ago, it appeared that world leaders might address the truly global threats that we face. In many cases, that trend has not continued or been reversed. For that reason, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists is moving the clock hand one minute closer to midnight, back to its time in 2007."

Commenting on the Doomsday Clock announcement, Jayantha Dhanapala, member of the BAS Board of Sponsors, former United Nations under-secretary-general for Disarmament Affairs, and ambassador of Sri Lanka to the United States, said:

"Despite the promise of a new spirit of international cooperation, and reductions in tensions between the United States and Russia, the Science and Security Board believes that the path toward a world free of nuclear weapons is not at all clear, and leadership is failing."

Dhanapala further pointed out that the ratification in December 2010 of the New START treaty between Russia and the United States had reversed the previous drift in US-Russia nuclear relations. "However, failure to act on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty by leaders in the United States, China, Iran, India, Pakistan, Egypt, Israel, and North Korea and on a treaty to cut off production of nuclear weapons material continues to leave the world at risk from continued development of nuclear weapons." The world still has over 19,000 nuclear weapons, enough power to destroy the world's inhabitants several times over, said Dhanapala.

An ICAN campaigner and the author of the study, Tim Wright, said: "The vast majority of nations believe it is time to ban nuclear weapons in the same way that biological and chemical weapons have been banned." ➔

Image: BANG (Ban All-Nukes Generation) launched in New Zealand before the May 2010 NPT Review Conference in New York
Credit: enact.org.nz



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NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH JANUARY 2012 ARTICLES

In-Depth Reports

Abandon snail's pace

"Nuclear disarmament cannot continue at a snail's pace if we are to prevent the further spread and use of nuclear weapons. It must be accelerated, and the best way to achieve that is through a comprehensive nuclear disarmament treaty with timelines and benchmarks for eliminating nuclear stockpiles," Wright said, adding: "This must be the next big negotiating objective of the international community."

The pressing need for doing away with nukes was also stressed in a historic resolution in November 2011 by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which has close to 100 million members and volunteers worldwide.

The resolution highlighted the humanitarian dangers of nuclear weapons and called on governments "to pursue in good faith and conclude with urgency and determination negotiations to prohibit the use of and completely eliminate nuclear weapons through a legally binding international agreement".

ICAN study finds that support for a treaty to abolish nuclear weapons has grown considerably since 2008, when the UN Secretary-General made such a treaty the centrepiece of his nuclear disarmament action plan. "At the May 2010 review conference of the ailing Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, two references to a nuclear weapons convention made their way into the agreed outcome document, despite strong protestations from some nuclear-armed nations," notes ICAN.

Arielle Denis, a senior campaigner at ICAN's office in Geneva, believes that governments have a clear popular mandate to ban nuclear weapons. "Right across the world, even in nations with large nuclear arsenals, opinion polls show that a majority of citizens support the elimination of these immoral, inhumane and illegal weapons. The people believe the time has come for their leaders to cast off the nuclear shadow," she said.

But, as Robert Socolow, member of the BAS Science and Security Board, says, "Obstacles to a world free of nuclear weapons remain. Among these are disagreements between the United States and Russia about the utility and purposes of missile defense, as well as insufficient transparency, planning, and cooperation among the nine nuclear weapons states to support a continuing drawdown."

Socolow adds: "The resulting distrust leads nearly all nuclear weapons states to hedge their bets by modernizing their nuclear arsenals. While governments claim they are only ensuring the safety of their warheads through replacement of bomb components and launch systems, as the deliberate process of arms reduction proceeds, such developments appear to other states to be signs of substantial military build-ups."

The way out of this morass is to mobilise public opinion. "Whether meeting the challenges of nuclear power, or mitigating the suffering from human-caused global warming, or preventing catastrophic nuclear conflict in a volatile world, the power of people is essential," says BAS executive director, Kennette Benedict.

"For this reason, we ask other scientists and experts to join us in engaging ordinary citizens. Together, we can present the most significant questions to policymakers and industry leaders. Most importantly, we can demand answers and action," she adds.

BAS points out that some of the key recommendations for a safer world have not been taken up and require urgent attention. These include ratification by the United States and China of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and progress on a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty;

There is a pressing need for implementing multinational management of the civilian nuclear energy fuel cycle with strict standards for safety, security, and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, including eliminating reprocessing for plutonium separation;

BAS also pleads for strengthening the International Atomic Energy Agency's capacity to oversee nuclear materials, technology development, and its transfer. [IDN-InDepthNews – January 16, 2012]



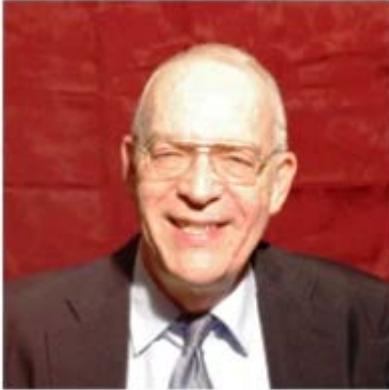
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What Others Say

Security Benefits of Nuclear Abolition to USA

By Frederick N. Mattis*



ANNAPOLIS, USA - The alarm over the Iranian nuclear program calls for reflection on the ultimate cause of all nuclear weapons-related threats: the absence of a worldwide ban on nuclear weapons. Focusing on the USA, below are security benefits of nuclear abolition – with axioms being that all states have joined a treaty banning nuclear weapons before it enters into force, and that worldwide inspection (verification) applies, and that before signing the nuclear ban treaty, states must fully join the current chem-bio weapons bans: 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and 1972 Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).

First, the USA would no longer face the threat of terrorist acquisition of a nuclear weapon from a state's arsenal. A terrorist nuclear detonation would be catastrophic beyond measure; but under nuclear abolition, terrorists would no longer have possible access, by theft or other means, to nuclear warheads of any state.

The other current avenue for terrorists to attain a nuclear weapon would be to obtain, by theft or other means, about 100 pounds of uranium already enriched to nearly 90 percent isotope uranium-235, and then to fabricate a relatively simple "gun-type" nuclear weapon. (The actual enrichment of uranium by terrorists for such a weapon would in extreme probability be beyond their scope, even if aided by rogue scientists and technicians.)

However, this possible means of terrorist nuclear attainment can also be cut off – if a worldwide nuclear weapons ban requires cessation of highly-enriched uranium [HEU] use (i.e., in some naval and research and isotope production reactors), and requires blending-down of HEU stocks to non-weapons usable low-enriched uranium.

Under a fully enacted nuclear weapons ban, there would likely still exist substantial stocks of plutonium, which is also usable for nuclear weapons. However, that would not open up worrisome danger of terrorists attaining a nuclear weapon even if they somehow acquired plutonium, because the complex engineering of an "implosion" weapon – which is required when using plutonium due to its level of neutron emission – is beyond the realistically conceived personnel and technological resources of even well-financed terrorists. (Plutonium could be used for a radiological or "dirty" bomb, but this would not be a true nuclear, i.e., fission explosion.)

To summarize on nuclear terrorism and the USA: only the worldwide elimination and prohibition of nuclear weapons, with stipulation also of blending-down of HEU to low-enriched uranium, will free the USA from the current terrorist dangers of acquisition of a nuclear weapon from a state's arsenal, or acquisition of HEU to fabricate a relatively simple gun-type weapon. ("Simple" does not imply lack of destructive power; the Hiroshima-weapon was of this design, so-named because masses of HEU are slammed together to form a supercritical mass in a container resembling a gun barrel.)

Second nuclear-abolition security benefit to the USA is that it would be freed from the threat of possible nuclear strike by a fanatic or deranged regime or leader of a state. With no nuclear weapons, none could be launched due to influence of madness or fervor (or vengeance or desperation).

Third, the possibility of "false-alarm" nuclear missile launch against the USA would finally vanish. The current danger to the USA, of course, is primarily related to the hundreds of U.S. and Russian warheads still on high-alert status – although many fewer than Cold War heights. In 1995 the U.S./Norwegian launch (from Norway) of a research rocket was communicated in advance to Russia, but word never reached necessary channels and President Boris Yeltsin came within minutes of activating a Russian nuclear response. Systems and humans can have failures; but under elimination of nuclear weapons the people of the USA (and Russia) would be freed from the possibility of "false-alarm" nuclear missile launch. ➡

*Frederick N. Mattis is author of "Banning Weapons of Mass Destruction", pub. ABC-CLIO/Praeger Security International (ISBN: 978-0-313-36538-6).



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Fourth, particular U.S. foreign policy headaches, and potential concomitant disasters, would be obviated with a worldwide nuclear weapons ban. Pre-eminently, Iran would cease to pose a credible threat to attain nuclear weapons, this because Iran and all states would be under the unprecedented geopolitical, legal, psychological, and moral force of a nuclear abolition treaty that regards states equally and thus fairly, and relieves all states and people of current nuclear threats, and applies worldwide inspection/verification. (Iran, for its part, has long vocalized support for worldwide nuclear elimination while criticizing current arsenals of nuclear weapon states.) Further, the foreseeable certainty of international storms of opposition and obloquy against a pernicious violator of the treaty would be a high-wall deterrent to any inclination to its violation – especially so given that the treaty was joined by all states before its entry into force.

Fifth, any chemical or biological weapon threats from states against the USA would be diminished, likely to near-zero, with the geopolitical and other force of aforementioned (recommended) nuclear ban-required accession by states to the current chem-bio bans prior to signing a nuclear weapons ban. (Most countries, including the USA and Russia, are already parties to the CWC and BWC.)

In addition, the then-fully worldwide reach of the CWC and BWC would reduce the potential terrorist chem-bio threat against the USA, due to CWC/BWC strictures on amount and variety of chem-bio weapons-usable agents, plus no states having "weaponized" chem-bio agents that could possibly be obtained by terrorists.

Today's "weapons of mass destruction" threats, particularly nuclear, to the security of the USA and its people will persist at an unacceptably high level until the weapons are banned worldwide. Understandably, though, the USA and certain other countries most likely will insist that a nuclear abolition treaty only enter into force after it is unanimously joined. The mere introduction of such a treaty for states' signatures will bring to the forefront the authentic security benefits of nuclear abolition to all states.

The Norwegian rocket incident (or Black Brant scare) refers to a few minutes of post-Cold War nuclear tension that took place on January 25, 1995, more than four years after the end of the Cold War. Picture: Wikimedia Commons





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Solidarity and Commitment for Nuke Abolition

By Hirotsugu Terasaki*



TOKYO - On November 26 last year, a resolution calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons was successfully adopted at the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This landmark development proved highly encouraging for civil society organizations working for the abolition of nuclear weapons. As one such organization, we (Soka Gakkai International) would also like to express our heartfelt respect and acclaim for the adopted resolution.

It is widely recognized that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has made important efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons since the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. Statements made in April 2010 by Jakob Kellenberger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and at the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates held in Hiroshima in November 2010

by Tadateru Konoé, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, were expressions of that enduring commitment.

Creating a Solidarity

Such engagement on the part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – historical leaders in the field of humanitarian relief – as well as civil society organizations whose prime focus is, for example, human rights and sustainable development, demonstrate the expanding global constituencies for a world without nuclear weapons.

Interstate negotiations face the inherent limitations that arise from the fact that governments are charged, first and foremost, with representing their perceived national interests. In an increasingly interdependent world, however, we are impelled to look beyond national interests, and bring shared, global interests to the fore.

At the same time, the continuing impacts of poverty, unemployment and disease require that we look at the realities of individuals' lives within states and address the imperatives of "human security" – creating and maintaining the conditions in which people can fully enjoy their right to a life of dignity.

In parallel with the need to develop more diverse perspectives and maximize their respective advantages, there is a growing need to foster solidarity across the boundaries that have sometimes separated people working in different fields – such as nuclear abolition, humanitarian protection and relief, human rights, sustainable development and so on. Only by realizing how deeply linked these concerns are will it be possible to build the kind of global popular solidarity needed to make meaningful progress toward our respective policy objectives.

As a network of Buddhist lay believers, Soka Gakkai International (SGI) has continued to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons for more than 50 years. At the heart of Buddhist teachings is the concept of "dependent origination," which holds that all things exist with and because of their relationships with other beings and phenomena. The real-life application of this concept takes the form of the simple injunction that we cannot, and must not, attempt to establish our own happiness at the expense of others' suffering.

This has led us to denounce nuclear weapons – which are explicitly designed to annihilate others with overwhelmingly destructive power – as an absolute evil. Because they give voice to clear moral imperatives rooted in the lived experience of people's lives, faith-based organizations (FBOs) such as SGI can make a unique contribution to expanding the participatory horizons of the antinuclear movement. ☺

*Hirotsugu Terasaki is Executive Director of the Office of Peace Affairs of Soka Gakkai International (SGI).



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After the first nuclear weapons were used against Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, the immensity of their destructive force led to their being considered "the ultimate weapon." As the Cold War continued, and both sides expanded their arsenals, the staggering and inhumane effects of nuclear weapons acted as constraints against their use in hostilities. The nuclear arms race, however, continued unabated as nuclear weapons came to be seen as having a principally deterrent value. They had become weapons whose use was unthinkable, but whose development and maintenance could deter attack and serve as a diplomatic bargaining chip.



Since the end of the Cold War, there has been a distinct change in the role of nuclear weapons. With the proliferation of nuclear technology, there is a renewed possibility of their use – in particular by terrorist organizations against whom the logic of deterrence is meaningless. The logic of nuclear deterrence – which rests on the "balance of terror" – is incapable of deterring people possessed by a nihilistic disregard for human life. The indiscriminate nature of contemporary terrorism makes every person on Earth a potential target, and the realities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki stand as grim reminders of the devastating atrocity that could be visited on us.

It is crucial that awareness of these new realities be shared throughout civil society. Individuals must understand that, under this new reality, we are all potential targets and that our only path to safety lies in ensuring that no nuclear weapon is ever used anywhere. Continuing to share this awareness and foster international public opinion against nuclear weapons is critical to the future of democratic governance.

This is because nuclear weapons are fundamentally antithetical to the values – human rights and dignity, concern for the welfare of others, sustainability – that are recognized as essential to the human future. Confronting and correcting the deep structural distortions that arise from the attempt to maintain national security through the possession of nuclear weapons must be a key element of efforts to realize these values.

Based on this awareness, SGI launched the People's Decade for Nuclear Abolition campaign in 2007. As one element of this campaign, we are currently working with OPANAL – the intergovernmental agency that oversees implementation of the Treaty of Tlatelolco that established a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (NWFZ) in Latin America and the Caribbean – to hold an international conference on the future of NWFZs. It is hoped that this conference, scheduled for February as a follow up to a forum organized by the IAEA last November, will help lay the groundwork for holding a conference this year on creating a NWFZ in the Middle East.

In like manner, SGI President Daisaku Ikeda has urged the holding of a nuclear abolition summit in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 2015 with the purpose of marking the effective end of the nuclear era. Toward these and other related objectives, SGI is ready to work with concerned civil society organizations, governments and intergovernmental bodies. ☺





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We are also committed to helping the normative consciousness already shared among the world's people against the atrocities of nuclear weapons use to find explicit and binding form. The first steps must be the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the early start of negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention banning these weapons forever. In that sense, we welcome and applaud the decision made by the Indonesian Parliament in December last year to authorize the ratification of the CTBT as this provides further impetus for the Treaty's entry into force.

Transitioning to Human Security

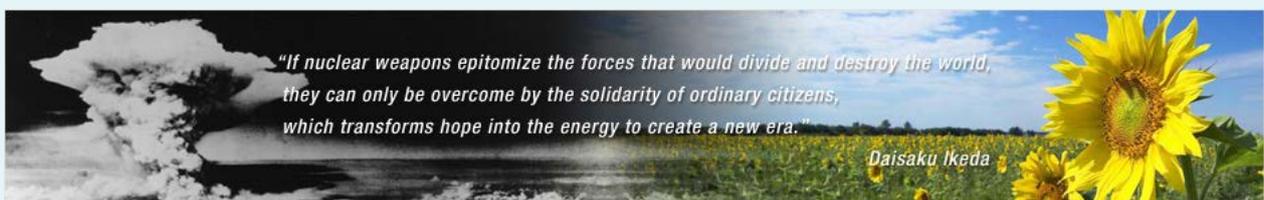
The time for debating whether it will be possible to rid the world of nuclear weapons is long past. Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and other prominent leaders in U.S. security affairs – all of whom have supported the doctrine of nuclear deterrence – are now on record with the view that, in order to prevent nuclear terrorism and nuclear proliferation, we must aim for a world free of nuclear weapons.

What can the world's people do, based on a clear recognition of the threat of nuclear weapons, to avert and resolve this crisis before it is too late? The time has come to give clear expression to the popular will for a world without nuclear weapons. Global civil society can and must play a central role giving voice and form to the desire for change.

SGI President Ikeda has written that, "In order to achieve real security in the twenty-first century we need to bring forth the powers of imagination that will enable us to directly and accurately apprehend evolving realities, to guide these changes toward the desired direction and to give birth to entirely new realities. To effect the transition from military-based national security to a new paradigm of human security requires a new creativity based on such powers of imagination."

In this context, the fact that the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has now announced a resolution clearly indicating that it is strengthening its efforts toward the abolition of nuclear weapons is a clear light of hope for the civil society organizations that are working tirelessly to give birth to a new reality. [IDN-InDepthNews – January 3, 2012]

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U.S. Expectations of Conference on Disarmament

By Rose Gottemoeller | Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance

[Following are excerpts of Gottemoeller's remarks at the opening of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva on January 24, 2012.]

[. . .] The New START Treaty entered into force on February 5, 2011. Implementation is going well and continues to contribute positively to the U.S.-Russian relationship. The treaty represents a strong foundation for further bilateral reductions and an important step on the path towards a world without nuclear weapons. Discussions between our two governments on the next steps are underway.

I am also pleased to report that the U.S.-Russian Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement (PMDA) and its Protocols came into force in 2011. The PMDA commits the United States and the Russian Federation each to dispose of no less than 34 metric tons of excess weapon-grade plutonium -- enough material for many thousands of nuclear weapons.



Expanding beyond bilateral issues, the five Nuclear Weapon States have started a regular dialogue on verification issues and confidence-building measures related to nuclear disarmament, as part of our commitment to carry out our Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Article VI obligations.

The United States is proud to be at the leading edge of transparency efforts -- publically declaring our nuclear stockpile numbers; participating in voluntary and treaty-based inspections measures; working with other nations on military to military, scientific and lab exchanges, sponsoring site visits and frequently briefing others on our nuclear programs and disarmament efforts.

The United States is committed to securing ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and we have been engaging the United States Senate and the American public on the merits of the Treaty. As we move forward with our process, we call on all governments to declare or reaffirm their commitments not to conduct explosive nuclear tests. We thank and congratulate Ghana, Guinea, Guatemala and Indonesia for ratifying the Treaty in the past year. We ask that all the remaining Annex 2 States join us in moving forward toward ratification.

I am also gratified to report progress on the extension of treaty-based negative security assurances through regional Nuclear Weapons Free zones. The Obama Administration transmitted the relevant Protocols of the African and South Pacific Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaties to the U.S. Senate for its advice and consent to ratification. We were also glad that the Nuclear Weapon States and the states of ASEAN resolved long standing differences related to the South East Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone's Protocol language: Along with the other NPT depositary states, we have lent our strong support to the efforts of the facilitator for the 2012 Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone Conference, Finnish Under Secretary Jaako Laajava.

Regarding the Chemical Weapons Convention, the United States is proud of the progress made towards a world free of chemical weapons. We continue to make steady progress in destroying our chemical weapons. By April of this year, we anticipate we will have destroyed 90% of our stockpile. The remaining 10% will be destroyed while assigning highest priority to ensuring the safety of people, protecting the environment, and complying with national standards for safety and emissions, as called for in the Convention.

Last month, the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention met here in Geneva for their Seventh Review Conference. They agreed to a standing set of agenda items that cover national implementation, developments in science and technology and assistance and cooperation, all of which will serve to strengthen the effect of the treaty and ☺



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH JANUARY 2012 ARTICLES

What Others Say

help bridge the interrelated work being undertaken in the security, public health, law enforcement and scientific communities. This was done under the able direction of our CD colleague, Ambassador Paul van den IJssel. [. .]

“Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities”

Over the past four years, United States and European experts have regularly consulted on drafts of the EU “Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities.” After an extensive interagency review of the EU’s initiative, the United States has decided to enter into formal consultations with the European Union and spacefaring nations to develop an International Code of Conduct, because the long-term sustainability of the space environment is at risk from space debris and irresponsible activities.

As Secretary Clinton announced on January 17, the United States is prepared to work in active partnership with all governments to develop a Code that can be adopted by the greatest number of spacefaring nations around the globe.

We believe that an international Code can help strengthen the long-term sustainability of space and promote safe and responsible use of space, while at the same time ensuring the inherent right of self-defense is not impaired. As more countries and companies field space capabilities, it is in our mutual interest that they act responsibly. A widely-subscribed International Code can encourage responsible space behavior and single out those who act otherwise, while reducing risks of mishaps, misperceptions, mistrust, and misconduct.

We expect to actively participate in the international discussions on an international Code throughout this year and beyond. As part of this process, the United States looks forward to the multilateral experts’ meetings that the European Union plans to convene in the near future.

We also look forward to the Group of Government Experts on outer space TCBMs that is scheduled to convene this summer. We see this as a key opportunity to develop practical measures to enhance transparency and confidence building and sustain the peaceful exploitation of outer space.

The Impasse at the CD

[. .] while the international community has been active and achieved results in many areas during the past year, the Conference on Disarmament appears to be no closer to an “honest day’s work” than it was last January.

Despite herculean efforts by a number of CD Member States, the CD continues to languish, and a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT), the next logical and necessary step in the multilateral nuclear disarmament process, remains no closer to negotiation.

We did see some rays of hope last year. Australia and Japan hosted a series of extensive FMCT technical experts’ discussions on the CD’s margins that allowed the international community an opportunity to exchange views and gain perspectives in a sustained and organized way. The Chairs’ summaries of these discussions will make a useful contribution to our collective body of knowledge when eventual FMCT negotiations begin.

The United States initiated consultations among the P5 and others on unblocking FMCT negotiations in the CD and to prepare our own countries for what certainly will be a prolonged and technically challenging negotiation.

Last summer, the Secretary-General of the United Nations asked Member States to continue their dialogue on ways to improve the operation and effectiveness of the UN’s multilateral disarmament machinery, in particular the CD.

In the view of the United States, all of these efforts have been worthwhile, but regrettably, none has achieved the desired result of moving this body forward on FMCT negotiations and work on other important issues. ➡



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH JANUARY 2012 ARTICLES

What Others Say

[. . .] when Secretary of State Hillary Clinton addressed the CD last February, she had stressed that, "Global nuclear security is too important to allow this matter [FMCT] to drift forever."

At the most recent session of the UNGA First Committee, we all witnessed and experienced the growing international frustration with the status quo here in Geneva. Not surprisingly, and with no small amount of justification, many in the international community are losing patience with the current situation in the CD.

Every government represented in this room has national security concerns and obligations associated with an FMCT, including my own. But as responsible governments, we also have a collective obligation to and responsibility for international peace and security, to which an FMCT would significantly contribute.

An FMCT Is As Vital As Ever

The FMCT is not some sort of deliberate diversion from "real" nuclear disarmament. Along with the CTBT, an FMCT is an absolutely essential step for global nuclear disarmament.

Simply stated, we can't get to the end, if we don't start at the beginning. A verifiable end to the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons is necessary if we are to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons. How can we make progress towards a world without nuclear weapons while some states continue to produce the key component for building up their nuclear arsenals?

A universal halt to the production of fissile materials for use in nuclear weapons is essential. Some states have already declared a moratorium on such production, but others have not. Some, such as the United States, have reduced their military stocks of fissile material, whereas others are actively engaged in further production. The path to a world without nuclear weapons will require many steps. The next logical step in halting the increase of nuclear arsenals is an FMCT.

[. . .] in Action 15 of the 2010 NPT Review Conference Final Document's Action Plan, all States Parties agreed that the CD should begin immediate negotiation of an FMCT. The United States remains firmly committed to an FMCT as a tangible contribution to our "full, effective and urgent implementation of article VI," as stated in that Action Plan. As the 2015 NPT review process gets under way this year, every NPT State Party has a responsibility to help make an FMCT a reality. In fact, every nation should share in the work that will create the conditions necessary to achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world.

Looking Ahead

Here in Geneva, and New York, and in capitals around the world, there has been a vigorous debate over the state of the UN's multilateral disarmament machinery in general and the CD impasse, in particular.

I have been speaking about this at various venues and I will reiterate my thoughts here. Some people have spoken about amending the consensus rule at the CD, in order to break the current logjam. The United States does not share the view that the impasse in the CD is the result of its procedural rules. On the contrary, we believe that the consensus rule has served CD members well by providing assurance that individual member states' national security concerns can be met.

There may be a case for some modifications to how decisions are taken on small procedural items at the CD, but those issues are not at the heart of the impasse. The road will remain blocked until all members of the CD are convinced that commencing negotiations is in their national interest, or at least, not harmful to those interests. The United States is working hard to make the case to those countries with reservations about the FMCT that starting negotiations is not something to fear.

Of course, for any negotiation to be substantive and worthwhile, the key states most directly affected by an FMCT should be involved. When it comes down to what is in the best interest of international security, the negotiating venue for the FMCT is of less importance than the participants. As a matter of pragmatism, however, the CD -- which includes every major nuclear capable state -- remains the best option for achieving a viable, effective FMCT. ➔



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH JANUARY 2012 ARTICLES

What Others Say

Once FMCT negotiations have begun, CD members will face many complex and contentious issues, including the difficult issue of scope. We are well aware that CD members are divided on this issue. Ambassador Shannon's Report to the CD, from which the Shannon Mandate is derived, highlighted these disagreements. His Report of his consultations made it abundantly clear that members could not agree on this key issue, nor on many others. What members did agree on is embodied in a key line in that Report following a listing of those contentious issues. That crucial line said: "...it has been agreed by delegations that the mandate for the establishment of the ad hoc Committee does not preclude any delegation from raising for consideration in the ad hoc Committee any of the above noted issues."

The U.S. position is clear: FMCT obligations, including verification obligations, should cover only new production of fissile material. Step-by-step approaches to arms control and nonproliferation have been very successful over the years. A step-by-step approach would serve us well with an FMCT. One essential step in the process should be a legal ban on the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons.

We are fully aware that many CD members have a different view and this issue will be the subject of vigorous debate. That is what negotiations are for, and the United States is ready to have that debate. What is not helpful is an effort to "pre-negotiate" the outcome of any negotiations by an explicit reference to existing stocks in a negotiating mandate.

We would not be alone in seeing this as a thinly-veiled effort to prevent negotiations from getting underway.

Regarding the possibility of the CD simultaneously negotiating on the four core issues (FMCT, nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances, and prevention of an arms race in outer space); it is not a practical option. It is difficult to see how a body that has not negotiated any of these topics over the last sixteen years could take on the responsibility for negotiating all four at one time. The CD should focus on one major negotiation at a time, as it did during the CTBT negotiations. Given the reality that an FMCT would set the stage for further progress in reducing nuclear arsenals, it has been repeatedly endorsed by CD member states as the priority nuclear disarmament negotiation.

Conclusion

[. . .] we hope that 2012 will be the year when the Conference on Disarmament emerges from its prolonged impasse and once again contributes to international peace and security by beginning negotiations on an FMCT.

The CD and its predecessor bodies have a long history of delivering landmark agreements, all of which were contentious in their own right and took years to complete. But in each case, the nations and people who assembled in this historic chamber persevered, and helped to create a multilateral arms control, non-proliferation, and disarmament structure that supports the security of the international system to this very day.

An FMCT will make a critical contribution to this international security architecture. As Secretary Clinton said last February, this agreement is "too important a matter to be left in a deadlock forever."

If the CD fails to deliver an FMCT negotiation this year, we will again have shirked our responsibility to move forward towards a world without nuclear weapons.... We recognize that this is a crucial year for the CD as an institution and that the UN General Assembly is monitoring our progress closely. Let's seize the opportunity to make real progress here and restore the vibrancy of this once vital institution. Business as usual is a recipe for disaster.

We look forward to consulting and working with the CD Member and Observer states as the 2012 session proceeds. Time is short and the stakes are high. [U.S. Department of State - www.state.gov/t/avc/rls/182385.htm]



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH JANUARY 2012 ARTICLES

Civil Society Perspective

Famous Australians Call for Ban

26 January 2012: More than 700 prominent Australians — including past prime ministers, sporting legends, actors and musicians — have signed a statement calling on Prime Minister Julia Gillard to play a leadership role in international efforts to outlaw nuclear weapons.

The appeal, launched on Australia Day, garnered the support of such diverse Australians as acclaimed novelist Bryce Courtenay, media personality Ita Buttrose, Olympic gold medallist Liz Ellis, and former prime ministers Malcolm Fraser, Bob Hawke and Gough Whitlam.



Signatories also include former governors-generals, High Court judges, foreign ministers, defence ministers and chiefs of the armed forces, along with notable scientists, journalists and academics. All those who signed are recipients of the Order of Australia, the nation's highest civilian honour.

The appeal expresses support for UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's call for negotiations on a treaty to outlaw and eliminate nuclear weapons, and recommends that Australia adopt a "nuclear-weapon-free defence posture". (Australia claims reliance on US nuclear weapons for its security.)

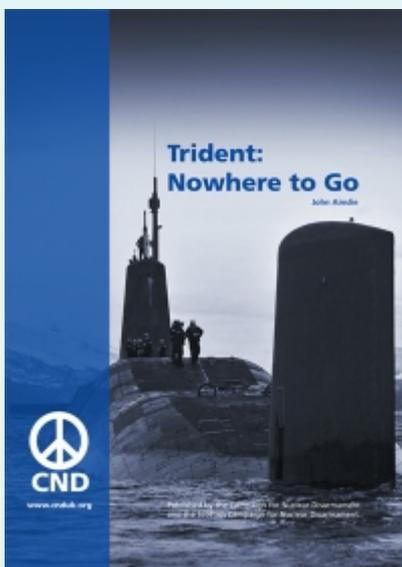
Former premier of the state of Victoria, Steve Bracks, said: "International cooperation provides the only route to a nuclear-weapon-free world. I support a nuclear weapons convention and hope that Australia can be one of its prime movers."

Sir Gustav Nossal, a past Australian of the Year, said: "Australia Day 2012 is an appropriate day for all Australians to nail their colours to the mast for an eventually nuclear-weapon-free world. The convention is already supported by a veritable legion of Australian leaders, and I now call on the Australian public to raise their voices for a truly important cause."

The appeal was initiated by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons in 2011, with the backing of Malcolm Fraser. Board member Frederick Mendelsohn, a neuroscientist, played a leading role. "It is time to create a comprehensive, verifiable treaty to abolish nuclear weapons. Failure to rid the world of these dreadful weapons would expose future generations to unacceptable risk," he said. [Source: www.icanw.org]

Go to: www.nuclearweaponsconvention.org.au

Trident: Nowhere to Go



Trident: Nowhere to Go, published in January 2012, is a detailed analysis of government archives. These documents discussed various possible locations for siting Polaris, Trident's predecessor. In light of recent developments toward a possible independence referendum in Scotland, this timely report analyses, using the MoD's own assessments, why alternative locations to Faslane and Coulport in Scotland are simply not tenable. With locations including the 2012 Olympics sailing venue, National Trust land and densely populated residential areas, there is simply nowhere for Trident to go.

Trident: Nowhere to Go is a joint publication by CND and Scottish CND.

Written by: John Ainslie

Researched by: John Ainslie & Brian Burnell



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH JANUARY 2012 ARTICLES

Translations | Adaptations

Global Support Peaks For No Nukes

JAPANESE

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=614:global-support&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=615:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

The Long Slow March to Nuke Abolition

ARABIC

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=616:the-long-slow-march&catid=3:arabic&Itemid=4

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=617:pdf&catid=3:arabic&Itemid=4

JAPANESE

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=610:the-long-slow-march&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=611:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

NORWEGIAN

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=621:den-lange-langsomme-marsjen-mot-avskaffelse-av-atomvapen-&catid=11:norwegian-swedish&Itemid=12

Security Benefits of Nuclear Abolition to USA

ARABIC

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=609:pdf&catid=3:arabic&Itemid=4

<http://www.arabic.indepthnews.info/index.php/global-issues/317-usasecurity-benefits>

Solidarity and Commitment for Nuke Abolition

JAPANESE

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=605:2012-01-12-15-37-09&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=606:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

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