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Reaching Critical Will
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League for Peace and Freedom

News in Review

Civil society perspectives on the Seventh Review Conference of the
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
May 2-27, 2005

Riddle Me This

- Rhianna Tyson, WILPF

How many subsidiary bodies does it take to strengthen a nonproliferation regime?

This is the riddle that keeps States parties to the Review Conference mired in what President Duarte called "a painful, protracted and difficult to understand" procedural process. For even after agreement on an agenda had, at long, long last, been finally reached, substantive work has not yet begun.

After a meeting of the General Committee Thursday morning, the three Chairs of each of the Main Committees (ambassadors from Sweden, Hungary and Indonesia) met with the coordinators of the three geographical groups (Western Group, Eastern European Group and the Non-Aligned Movement) to iron out the remaining procedural issues. These consultations focused primarily on the number of subsidiary bodies to be established.

Until Thursday, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) had been demanding that a subsidiary body, focused solely on the Middle East, be kept separate from such a body with a much broader mandate to focus on "Regional Issues". At some point during the closed-door regional consultations, the NAM agreed to combine matters relating to the Middle East with other regional discussions. The NAM is still holding out, however, for separate bodies on Negative Security Assurances (NSAs) and nuclear disarmament. The Western Group, on the other hand, prefers the arrangement of the 2000 Review Conference, which had established only two subsidiary bodies: regional issues and nuclear disarmament. Under the Western Group formulation, issues of NSAs could be broached during discussions on nuclear disarmament.

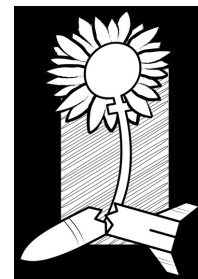
Another contentious issue at this procedural

stage is over the question of Article X: withdrawal from the Treaty. Many delegations are pushing for this issue to be taken up under Main Committee III, which deals with "peaceful uses of nuclear technology." These delegations view MCIII as the most appropriate umbrella, since States which withdraw to develop nuclear weapons (as was the case with North Korea) can easily do so by converting their "peaceful" technology (derived under Article IV of the Treaty) into weapons programs.

Even if all of these disagreements were settled overnight, another troubling riddle remains: how much time is actually left for the Conference to discuss substantive issues? With almost two full weeks spent on procedural haggling, and with one week needed for negotiating the Final Document, how many hours will they be able to spend actually *discussing* the substantive issues at hand?

The answer to this mathematical quandary, of course, only points to another, more troubling equation: 5 Nuclear Weapon States + three unrecognized Nuclear Weapon States - 1 withdrawn State, multiplied by x number of non-state actors seeking nuclear weapons, divided by 60 years since the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, multiplied by 1,732 NGO representatives at the Review Conference. Put that in parentheses and divide it by the number of days left at this Review Conference and multiply it by the 35 years that have passed since the Nuclear Weapon States first undertook to "pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament".

Add that to the number of hours spent negotiating these procedural issues and tell us: are we any closer to a nuclear weapon-free world?



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An Idea Whose Time Has Come: A Permanent Verification Corps

Over the past few years, many governments and international agencies have been examining the possibility of a permanent corps of inspectors, to be situated at the United Nations, ready and equipped to verify non-proliferation and/or disarmament of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

The United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) was such a body, albeit an ad-hoc, temporary one, mandated to inspect only one country: Iraq. Now that UNMOVIC's success in Iraq has been proven without a doubt, there is heightened international acknowledgement of the need to retain the experience, personnel and human resources of that verification body.

On Tuesday, May 10, the New Zealand Government sponsored a panel organized by the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission (WMDC), wherein Dr. Trevor Findlay, former Executive Director of the Verification, Research, Information and Training Centre (VERTIC), discussed his study on a permanent United Nations monitoring, verification and inspection body to deal with WMD issues.

His report, *A Standing United Nations WMD Verification Body: Necessary and Feasible*, concludes that when one considers the threats from, and increasing international concern about the proliferation of WMD, the need for such a monitoring body becomes immediately clear.

The report recommends the establishment of a permanent international body that would draw upon the existing experience and capacities of UNMOVIC that could be called on to deal with all types of WMD and their delivery systems, including missiles, anywhere in the world. The suggested mandate includes maintaining:

- a general watch on WMD and related developments worldwide;
- data gathering, processing and analytical capacities for all types of WMD ;
- a capability to undertake, at short notice, verification

operations, including fact-finding missions, on-site inspections, and on-going monitoring and verification at the request of the Security Council;

- keeping abreast of developments and conducting training in verification modalities, techniques and technologies.

Dr. Patricia Lewis of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research and Jon Wolfstahl of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace were invited to comment on Dr. Findlay's presentation. Dr. Lewis related Dr. Findlay's presentation to the history of the idea of a permanent verification corps, which has been discussed and examined in several fora at different times throughout her distinguished career. With UNMOVIC's experience still relatively fresh in our collective memory, however, she believes that the time has finally come for this idea to evolve into reality.

Dr. Findlay's report was submitted to the WMDC, whose Chair, Dr. Hans Blix, seemed to regard the report's findings favorably.

Prior to his position as Chair of the WMDC, Dr. Blix headed up UNMOVIC as it conducted its high profile inspections in Iraq. These inspections, which all but verified that Iraq had not developed a significant weapons program, was ignored by the US administration, which attacked Iraq despite UNMOVIC's findings.

What will happen when pre-emptive war doctrine threatens another country? Will an ad-hoc, temporary verification body be able to suffuse the next crisis? Or is it time that we institutionalized the primacy of verification as one of our best tools for ensuring our global, collective security?

For more information on Dr. Findlay's report, contact Rita Grossman-Vermaas, The Canadian Centre for Treaty Compliance: (613) 799-8796. To download the entire report, visit: http://www.carleton.ca/npsia/research_centres/cctc.htm.

A 15 Minute Film

"Genie in a Bottle: Unleashed!"

Two 13-year-old filmmakers, Stephen Sotor and Trace Gaynor, tell the story of the Manhattan Project, the tragedy of Hiroshima/Nagasaki bombings and why the atomic bomb should never be used again.... oh and they interview the Genie.

A Stephen Trace Production

*Directed, produced, edited and filmed by Stephen Sotor and Trace Gaynor
(with original music composed and played by Trace Gaynor).*

Film Screening and Discussion:

Friday, May 13th

1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Mutual Trust between North Korea and the U.S is the Way to Achieve Nuclear Disarmament in North Korea: Korean women's voice for peace on the Korean peninsula

Korean women, who have been hoping to see Korea become a land of peace, without war and weapons, and who have long worked for the peaceful reunification of Korea, are very concerned about the declaration that North Korea has nuclear weapons. 2005 is the 60th year since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the screams of the victims still ring in our memory. We cannot accept the existence of nuclear weapons, which are fundamentally against life and peace.

Economic sanctions or
military attack against
North Korea will
strengthen tensions
and insecurity and
elevate the risk of war.

It has been our strong position that the nuclear weapons states including the US should dismantle all their nuclear weapons, and we do not believe a North Korean nuclear weapon can help in resolving the Korean nuclear problem. North Korean nuclear weapons could bring about a nuclear domino situation in neighboring countries, strengthen Japanese remilitarization, cause an arms race and aggravate tensions in Northeast Asia. If North Korea, according to its statement, does possess nuclear weapons, it must dismantle them for the denuclearization of the Korea Peninsula.

At the same time, however, for actual resolution of North Korea's nuclear issue, we should pay attention to the background of its declaration of nuclear weapons possession. North Korea considers the Bush administration's policy as designed to antagonize, isolate and stifle the DPRK, and is very worried about "regime change." We understand that North Korea considers nuclear weapons a

means of self-defense, and views its possession of nuclear weapons as a self-defense measure, a position stemming from its security anxiety over the US's hard-line policy. We should also pay attention to the parts of the DPRK statement that affirm the principles of dialogue and negotiation as the way to solve the issue, and that clarify the ultimate goal to be denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

We therefore oppose any economic sanctions or military attack against North Korea in retaliation for

its declaration of possession of nuclear weapons. Such methods will strengthen tensions and insecurity and elevate the risk of war. The North Korean nuclear issue absolutely must be resolved through peaceful and cooperative methods. The key to resolving the nuclear problem is to create an environment of mutual trust in which there is no longer a need for nuclear weapons. The most important element is trust; if there is no trust, complete verification will be impossible and it will take a long time to solve the problem. It is also important to have a new environment in which nuclear weapons are irrelevant and unneeded.

The US needs to talk with North Korea directly, as soon as possible, to solve the DPRK's anxieties over its security. The US pressure on North Korea--through such actions as its labeling of the North as an "outpost of tyranny," the US Congress' passage of the North Korean Human Rights Act and the Proliferation Security Initiative should be stopped.

To build trust between North Korea and the US, both countries need to agree upon a comprehensive package deal for simultaneous dismantling of the North Korean nuclear program and US compensation to North Korea.

As representative of the southern part of the peninsula's "community of destiny," the South Korean government should play a more independent and active role. From the long-term view of peace building and reunification of the Korean peninsula, the South needs to fulfill its duty of comprehensive and substantive economic assistance to the North, and to create the circumstances that will assure the security of North Korea.

We women of South Korea, in this "60th year of liberation" and "60th year of division" of Korea, will work to advance inter-Korean cooperation and exchanges, and to build support among the people of Korea and the international community for peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue.

We believe that our determined efforts for peace are the way to overcome the pain of division and war, to put an end to the cold war legacy, and to realize a Korean peninsula where peace and reconciliation prevail. We ask the support of the international community to make this hope come true.

This is a statement by Women Making Peace, made after North Korea declared it had nuclear weapons in February, 2005. This statement was circulated by Gyung-Lan Jung, Director, Center for Peaceful Future of Korea, Women Making Peace.

What's On: Calendar of Events for Today

Daily morning interfaith prayer vigil

Where: Ralph Bunche Park, 42nd Street, 1st Avenue

When: May 2-6, 7:30 AM

Contact: Caroline Gilbert, Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Abolition 2000 Morning Caucus

Where: United Nations Church Center (44th street and 1st avenue), Boss Room, 8th floor

When: Daily, 8 AM- 9 AM

Contact: Monika Szymurska, Global Coordinator

Governmental Briefing- (United Kingdom)

Where: UN Conference Room E

When: 9 AM- 10 AM

Contact: Rhianna Tyson, RCW

Inspiring nuclear awareness through visual culture and the arts

Where: UN Conference Room E

When: 10-12 PM

Contact: Marguerite Kahrl and Ombretta Agró, Atomic Mirror

Film Screening and Discussion: *Genie in a Bottle*, a film produced by and for youth

Where: UN Conference Room E

When: 1:15-2:15

Contact: Katie Sotor

NGO Consultation on the Millennium Review Summit

Where: UN Conference Room E

When: 3 PM

Contact: Mark Shelford, World Federation of United Nations Associations; tel: 212 963 0965

You can find the full listing of NGO events at:

www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/RevConEvents.html

Are You Ready to Join Us?

After two weeks of participating in the RevCon, most of the German youth will be returning home this weekend. We were very active these days, listening not only to the speeches of the General Debate, but also and participating in different NGO workshops. We were also involved in the drafting and presentation of the youth speech to the Conference. In addition, we organized our own youth workshops and actions.

Bannering

To provide people who were not able to come to New York with an opportunity to express their wish for disarmament and peace, we displayed the banner of the German branch of Abolition 2000 during our vigils at the Isaiah steps.

Sunflowers instead of Bombs

Referring to the planting of sunflowers in a former Ukrainian nuclear missile site, we distributed 30,000 sunflower seeds to delegates and people in the streets to symbolise our desire for a Nuclear Weapon Convention that will attain total nuclear disarmament as well as an end to proliferation.



Protecting the International law

Twice we put up the symbolic protection wall for international law: once during the rally in Central Park and once at the Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza.

Asking for the immobilization of plutonium

A smoker with a burning cigarette in his mouth cannot teach others not to do so. To prevent new smokers or to convince smokers to quit, one must lead by example. Hopefully, Germany will soon renounce its nuclear sharing policy and get rid of the US nuclear bombs on its soil. We wrote letters to our political leaders and asked them to immobilize our plutonium stockpile so that it can never be used for nuclear weapons by anyone. We would like to see our government provide such a good example and to give up its own possession of 'tobacco'.

Here you can find more information about us:

www.pressehuetten.de

www.a-vr.org

Organ Concert

For our farewell, there will be an organ concert at the West End Presbyterian Church on 105th St. Amsterdam Av. on Friday, May 13th 6 pm to which we would like to invite you all.

Contributors to this edition of the *News in Review* include:

German youth delegation

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Gyung-Lan Jung, Women Making Peace

Kathleen Sullivan, ESR-Metro

Rhianna Tyson is the Editor of the *News in Review*.