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Reaching Critical Will
a project of the Women's International
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

The Footnote Versus the Fuel Rod

-Rhianna Tyson, WILPF

On Friday 13th, the NPT Review Conference failed to make any progress on the remaining procedural issues at hand. That's right- no progress. That's quite an assessment regarding diplomatic negotiations, wherein "progress" can constitute agreement on a footnote, a relative giant leap forward considering it took a week and half to reach that agreement.

Unfortunately, this achievement isn't *quite* such a leap to the world outside of the UN building. While the delegates to the Review Conference continued their procedural slugfest over the number of subsidiary bodies to be established (see "Riddle Me This," *News in Review*, No. 10), the world inched evermore closer to nuclear war.

On May 11, North Korea announced that it removed 8,000 fuel rods that it intends to reprocess, in order to extract the plutonium needed for nuclear weapons. This announcement took place against suspicious activity at Kilju, where some believe North Korea will soon conduct a nuclear test explosion.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministers of the "European-3" ratcheted up their rhetoric towards Iran, sending their strongest-worded letter yet to the head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Hassan Rouhani. The British, French and German Foreign Ministers warned that, should Iran make good on its threats to resume uranium enrichment, it "would bring the negotiating process to an end." Hawks in the US clapped with glee, pointing out that the next chance for the IAEA to refer Iran to the Security Council is just around the corner, at the next Board of Governors meeting on June 13. "This is the

closest we've gotten to reporting Iran to the Council since November 2003," one anonymous US official told the *Washington Post*.

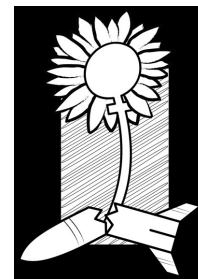
For their part, the US is upping the global nuclear ante as well. Sunday's *Post* revealed that a top secret "Interim Global Strike Alert Order", issued by Defense Secretary Rumsfeld early last summer, ordered the military to maintain readiness to "attack hostile countries that are developing weapons of mass destruction, specifically Iran and North Korea." This alert order has implications for the nuclear force as well, which, according to the Commander of the 8th Air Force, is "essentially on alert."

To those like Kim Jong Il, Rouhani and Rumsfeld, agreement on a footnote just doesn't pack the same punch as good old-fashioned nuclear saber rattling.

With only a few days left to make *real* progress on substantive issues, diplomats must heed the words of Kofi Annan, who, on May 13, urged governments to recognize that "what is happening indicates the urgency for the (States parties) to really take this conference seriously and try and strengthen the NPT."

The footnote *will* be a symbol of progress if, and only if, it is a prelude to a strong Final Document, one which tackles these fuel rods and out of control fuel cycles, the insanely high operational status of nuclear weapons and the increasingly low threshold to use them.

For if diplomacy doesn't eliminate nuclear weaponry, then the weaponry will certainly eliminate us.



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The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of WILPF or the Reaching Critical Will project. If you would like to submit an article or graphic to the *News in Review*, contact the Editor.

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Rhodes and Graham Look at Strengthening the NPT

- Hongwei Chen, WILPF

The May 12th panel discussion hosted by Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) featured eloquent and moving accounts against current US nuclear policy by prolific author Richard Rhodes and former special representative to the President Thomas Graham.

Richard Rhodes presented an almost poetic speech that stressed the impossibility of preventing an attack with nuclear weapons. Whether attempting to ward off an ICBM or a crude nuclear terrorist attack “the bomber, the missile, the truck, and the boat will always get through.” Therefore, he concluded, the only way to defend against a nuclear attack is through the abolition of nuclear weapons. Rhodes also heralded

the principle of transparency, and the need to make intrusive weapons inspections the norm.

Thomas Graham provided an in depth history of the nuclear age, noting the many times the world was on the brink of nuclear war and providing an overview of anti-nuclear treaties. He viewed the NPT as immensely successful in that it converted the acquisition of nuclear weapons from a sign of national pride into an act contrary to the practices of civilization. He also stressed that the NPT’s central bargain—disarmament in exchange for non-proliferation—must be upheld to preserve the political balance and strengthen the NPT. He provided several recommendations for the US, such as ratifying the CTBT, toughening controls on the Iranian

nuclear program, sign a no first use protocol, and restrict access to the nuclear fuel cycle.

The ensuing discussion covered topics from legal prohibitions on the use of nuclear weapons, the utility of nuclear power- which both Graham and Rhodes supported- and German plans to rethink nuclear sharing. Bob Musil, the moderator and Executive Director of PSR, concluded by stating that despite our different ideas about arms control and nuclear energy, we should work together because there are people in power that are interested in increasing the nuclear arsenal.

Hongwei Chen is an intern with the RCW project of WILPF UN Office.

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Making the Link Between Disarmament and Development

- Alex Sundberg, WILPF

At their panel at the Church Center on Thursday, the Alliance for the Global Wellness Fund (GWF) Treaty posed the question, "Can international treaties promote the goals of disarmament and development?" To answer this question, they asked Dr. Clarence Dias to look at the ways in which existing treaties and frameworks for humanitarian and development aid. Dr. Dias pointed out what he called "three major frauds" that increase the need for effective international law to protect human rights and equitable development: not even the most generous donor countries live up to the [what "the?" is there a minimum requirement stated somewhere?] 0.7% of GDP for humanitarian aid and development funding; many of the recipient countries abuse the funding in corrupt ways far from developmental projects; and a paradigm shift has taken place, where development through aid has been replaced by development through trade and investment, increasing risks of corruption and reducing the number of beneficiaries.

After having warmed up the audience with his 11 Commandments of Development, including the Orwellian truism that "... some (SOME WHAT?) are more equal than others", Dr. Dias turned the panel over to Larry Pullen, Co-chair of the Alliance for the GWF Treaty, a group of academic/ activists who drafted and the Global Wellness Fund Treaty and continue to promote it. They envision a GWF as a UN Development Program (UNDP)-administered fund to be established "in order to raise additional major funding for an enhanced, broad scale development of the world's low-income States." The dividend remaining after States Parties to the GWF Treaty reduce their military expenditure over a five-year scenario would instead be used by the Fund for development project in States Parties qualified as Recipient States. Such a fund supports the dynamics between disarmament, development and peace.

Ibrahim Ramey of Fellowship of Reconciliation USA and Saul Mendolovitz from Rutgers Law School applauded the GWF Treaty while acknowledging some of the problems related to the idea, including the lack of incentives for wealthy nations to sign on. For the entry-into-force of the Treaty, ratification by five of the 15 richest countries in the world in addition to a minimum of 25 other states, would be required.

Whether the panel answered the titular question of international treaties' ability to promote disarmament and development is doubtful, but the ambition, creativity and idealism behind the Global Wellness Fund Treaty certainly merit it further deliberation.



photo courtesy of <http://web.uniud.it/crin/appamondo.gif>

~New Publication from Reaching Critical Will~

The Model Nuclear Inventory: Accountability is Democracy, Transparency is Security

The Model Nuclear Inventory is a comprehensive database of all nuclear materials, both military and civilian, in the 44 States recognized as having a significant nuclear capability.

With the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty perceived to be in crisis, what is needed now is a course to strengthen both disarmament as well as non-proliferation obligations. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, with the contribution and assistance of non-governmental organizations around the world, offer this Model Nuclear Inventory as a tool toward the achievement of a nuclear weapon-free world.

As such a tool, the Model Nuclear Inventory must also include an assessment of the legal- as well as the technical- aspects of the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Therefore, the Model Nuclear Inventory also includes a chapter that analyzes the Nuclear Weapon States' implementation of the Practical Steps to Disarmament, as unanimously agreed upon at the Sixth Review Conference of the NPT in 2000.

By tracking and securing fissile materials around the world, we can help prevent illegal acquisition of these materials. Likewise, irreversible, verifiable disarmament can be possible only after a full accounting of existing stockpiles is taken.

Copies of the Model Nuclear Inventory are available to purchase for \$20, or you can download it off our site at: www.reachingcriticalwill.org.

Contact Reaching Critical Will to order your copy:

Inventory@reachingcriticalwill.org

www.ReachingCriticalWill.org

Contributors to this
edition of the
News in Review include:

Hongwei Chen, WILPF
Ann Lakhdhir, NGO Committee on Disarmament
Alex Sundberg, WILPF

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

Who's Who: Mexico's Ambassador de Alba



Many analysts and experts are saying that the NPT is at its greatest crisis in history. Do you agree with that statement?

This is certainly not the first time that the Treaty goes through a difficult moment, and I assume it will not be the

last. The fact that there have been problems in the Preparatory Process, mainly due to bad methods of work and the lack of flexibility of some delegations, does not mean that we will not be able to have a good final outcome of the Conference. Certainly there are some concerns about the compliance with the Treaty and implementation of previously agreed commitments; I very much hope that we can address them in a comprehensive manner.

What is the greatest priority for your delegation at this Conference?

One of the most important elements is to address the issue of compliance, which we consider to be of utmost importance for the sustainability of the NPT regime. Compliance with the Treaty has to be examined in all its articles and preambular paragraphs, as well as the Final Document agreed at the previous Review Conference. NPT States Parties need to be held fully accountable with all obligations under the Treaty. Compliance is not an "à la carte" question.

In the view of your delegation, what would be the best outcome of the Conference? The worst?

The best result would be one in which we do not only review the state of the Treaty as a whole and the level of implementation of the previously agreed commitments, but also assess what needs to be done. For instance, increasing transparency and accountability would very much strengthen the Treaty. The worst outcome would derive from addressing the issues in a partial and unbalanced manner as this would lead to fruitless confrontations.

In your view, how can NGOs be more effective at these NPT meetings?

It is important that governments make more use of all the expertise by NGOs, and that we see each other as partners. Messages from the NGO community need to be brief, straightforward and with a clear message. Similarly, NGOs are vital in awareness-raising activities in some key countries. Parliamentarians and the general public need to be more aware of the issues we deal with in the framework of the NPT. Mexico has always worked in partnership with some disarmament committed NGOs and looks forward to continuing to do so.

How did you get interested in disarmament and non-proliferation issues?

For Mexico disarmament has always been a priority matter. So like any other Mexican multilateral diplomat, I strongly believe in disarmament as a way to achieve a more secure world. I am also committed to develop new ways and means which are more direct and creative, to strengthen multilateralism, including in the field of disarmament and international security.

NGO Input to the Millennium+5

- Ann Lakhdhir, NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security

On Friday, NGOs gathered in Conference Room E to discuss civil society participation in the Millennium+5 process.

Rik Panganiban, the Communications Coordinator for CONGO and the meeting's moderator, explained that the Millennium +5 NGO Network, the host of the event, was set up about 8 months ago to be a facilitator of NGO involvement in the process. Rik explained that this NGO consultation was both an informational session on the Millennium+5 process and a consultation to collect NGO views for transmission to governments.

Rik explained that the Millennium + 5 High Level Plenary of the UN General Assembly will take place in September 2005 when the United Nations and governments meet to evaluate the progress in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other objectives from the UN Millennium Declara-

tion. One of the key documents that will shape the September meeting is the Secretary-General's report, "In Larger Freedom" which contains a section "Freedom from fear" that deals with peace and security issues. (A/59/2005)

Civil Society will get an opportunity to relay their opinions to governments 23-24 June 2005 at the UNGA Civil Society Hearings. Rik mentioned that there will be a call on 16 May 2005 in which the modalities for participation in the General Assembly Hearings with Civil Society in June will be announced. There is an expectation that around 200 NGO representatives will have a chance to speak and participate in the discussion. Rik asked the participants to consider if their organizations would like to nominate members to participate in the hearings in New York from June 23-24. This information will be announced on the Millennium+5 list serve that is open to all NGOs interested in the Millennium+5 process. Those interested in joining can e-mail: millenniumplus5ngonetwork-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

continued on page 5

Millennium continued from page 4

Rik than began the consultation phase by asking NGOs to consider what they think is important for Heads of Governments to raise at the September Summit, particularly with respect to peace and security issues. The second main question that Rik asked was for the NGOs present to think about how NGOs could improve their networking abilities and present stronger voices to governments.

Discussion focused on the obvious need, for the eight Millennium Development Goals to be achieved, to have peace everywhere and for expenditures on the military to be greatly reduced. Otherwise there will be insufficient resources to achieve better education, health, and a better life

for all. About twenty NGO representatives participated in the discussion, which focused on how NGOs could help reduce conflict.

Akira Kawasaki, of Peace Boat, called for the creation of a Peace Building Commission that would focus on preventive measures. Ann Lakhdhir asked how the existing UN resolution calling for the reportage of military expenditures could play a greater role in achieving reductions in military spending.

There was also much discussion of how to achieve greater participation for civil society in discussions at the UN and how to make that discussion productive. The con-

sensus building procedures of the Bahai and Quakers were discussed and the need to put forth a vision for the future. That vision calls for a peaceful world and the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. Joan Levy, the Chair of the DPI NGO Executive Committee, said polls showed that 85% of the population believed they would be safer in a world without nuclear weapons.

Ann Lakhdhir is the President of the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security.

The Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) cordially invite you to a panel discussion –
co-hosted by the German and the Swiss Delegations to the 2005 NPT Review Conference – on:

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN NUCLEAR ARMS

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

1:15 - 2:45 pm

Conference Room No. IV

Speakers include:

H.E. Ambassador Nobuyasu ABE, Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs

H.E. Ambassador Volker HEINSBERG, Permanent Representative of the Germany to the CD

H.E. Ambassador Jürg STREULI, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the CD

Prof. Dr. Heiner HÄNGGI, Assistant Director/Head of Research, DCAF

Dr. Hans BORN, Senior Fellow, DCAF

Dr. Annette SCHAPER, Project Director, PRIF

At the international and domestic level, transparency and accountability is essential for the international community to collectively work towards the disarming of nuclear weapon states; to avoid the accidental use of nuclear weapons; to prevent nuclear terrorism; and to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. There must be an understanding of the governance structure in nuclear weapons states to successfully apply the multilateral international governance system which has been established. The panel will primarily address the issue of transparency as a prerequisite for disarmament and accountability as a prerequisite for non-proliferation.



Geneva Centre for the
Democratic Control
of Armed Forces

For more information on this event see:
<http://www.dcaf.ch/news/NPT05.2005/mainpage.html>

POC: Ms. Ingrid BEUTLER, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of
Armed Forces (DCAF), phone: 0041 22 741 7748; email: i.beutler@dcaf.ch



Geneva Centre for the
Democratic Control
of Armed Forces

What's On: This WEEK's Calendar of Events

Monday, May 16

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

Governmental Briefing- Ambassador Mine (Japan)

Where: UN Conference Room E

When: 9 AM- 10 AM

Contact: Rhianna Tyson, RCW

Abolition 2000 Morning Caucus

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

When: Daily, 10 AM- 11 AM

Contact: Monika Szymurska, Global Coordinator

The Middle East and the rest of the world: Call for World Truce and economic conversion

Where: UN Conference Room E

When: 1:15- 2:45

Contact: Contact: Odile Hugonot Haber, WILPF

Russian Delegation Briefing on "Practical Steps Taken by the Russian Federation in the field of Nuclear Disarmament"

Where: Conference Room IV

When: 1:15 PM

Contact: Russian Mission: (212) 861-4900

Tuesday, May 17

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, 10 AM- 11 AM

Contact: Monika Szymurska, Global Coordinator

Panel: Transparency and Accountability in Nuclear Arms

Where: UN Conference Room IV

When: 1:15- 2:45

Contact: Ingrid Beutler, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)

Wednesday, May 18

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

The Quest for Justice and a Non-Nuclear Future

Where: United Nations Conference Room E

When: 10 AM- 1 PM

Contact: Judy Lerner, Peace Action

Nuclear Terrorism, Nuclear Power and Article IV

Where: UN Conference Room E

When: 1:15-2:45

Contact: Jaya Tiwari, Physicians for Social Responsibility

World Council of Churches and Nuclear Disarmament

Where: UN Conference Room E

When: 3-5 PM

Contact: Dr. Hans Heijis, World Council of Churches

Thursday, May 19

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, 10 AM- 11 AM

Contact: Monika Szymurska, Global Coordinator

Briefing on Space Security

Where: UN Conference Room E

When: 1:15 - 2:45 pm

Contact: David Wright, Union of Concerned Scientists

Friday, May 20

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, 10 AM- 11 AM

Contact: Monika Szymurska, Global Coordinator

DVD Screening: Peace by Piece/One Thousand Crane Workshop by New York University Students

Where: United Nations Conference Room E

When: 1:15- 2:45

Contact: Hiroshi Sunairi, New York University

Check
www.ReachingCriticalWill.org
 for the most updated
 Calendar of Events