



NEWS IN REVIEW

A Collection of NGO Views on the NPT PrepCom 2004



April 27, 2004 - No. 2

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom-

UN Office: 777 UN Plaza, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10017 Phone: (212) 682-1265 Fax: (212) 286-8211 Email: wilpfun@igc.org

International Secretariat: 1, rue de Varembe, C. P.28, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Phone (+41 22) 919-7080 Fax: (+41 22) 919-7081 Email: info@wilpf.ch

GETTING RIGHT TO IT

To the pleasant surprise of NPT observers, many States Parties avoided much of the usual rhetoric during the first day's General Debate and plunged right into the substantive issues facing the PrepCom. Perhaps this is because the majority of States acknowledge that "this PrepCom has specific tasks that have been assigned to it and our focus should- first and foremost- be on ensuring that we complete these," as maintained by South Africa's Peter Goosen. States Parties should not "simply concentrate on the iteration or reiteration of policy positions," advised the seasoned NPT diplomat, "Neither are we only to report on what has been accomplished...(or) only to prepare a summary report on the deliberations that will have taken place."

Thus many States, though not all, utilized the General Debate to lay the framework for the substantive and procedural issues that the PrepCom is charged to address.

The Review Process

Canada, which should be commended for its balanced emphasis on both disarmament and non-proliferation, has already issued a working paper on "Overcoming the institutional

deficit of the NPT," (NPT/CONF.2005/PC.III/WP.1); the buzz sparked by these proposed changes to the NPT process is vibrant.

The Canadian proposal calls for the replacement of "Preparatory Committees with Annual General Conferences of States Parties to consider and decide on any issues covered by the Treaty." Under Canada's proposal, the bureau of the review process would be empowered to convene emergency sessions of States Parties "when situations arose that threatened the integrity of viability of the Treaty."

The U.K. utilized its opening statement to flat out reject such a proposal, denying "the idea... that such measures would strengthen the NPT process" and warned against "tinkering with core elements of the Treaty." South Africa, on the other hand, urged that recommendations "should also include a recommendation that the Review Conference consider the Review Process with a view to its further strengthening or enhancement." The Non-Aligned movement also called for meetings on a Middle East NWFZ to be held in advance of the Review Conference, using the reports *continued on page 3*

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Reaching Critical Will's newly revised and fully updated **NGO Shadow Report: Accountability is Democracy. Transparency is Security** is now available. Each governmental delegation will receive one complimentary copy of the most comprehensive inventory of military and civilian nuclear materials, immediately following the close of today's morning session. Additional copies are US\$20. An RCW representative will be right outside of Conference Room IV to ensure that your delegation receives a copy of this special report.

The Shadow Report is a civil society contribution to the promotion of a culture of reporting, as mandated in Step 12 of the 2000 Final Document. Be sure to receive your complimentary copy today.

Also available at: www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/shadowreport/shadrepindex.html

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BIG Things Are Happening TODAY at the PrepCom!

At 9 AM, the **U.S. delegation** will be briefing the NGOs in Conference Room A in an off-the-record session.

At 1 PM, Abolition 2000, a network of over 2000 organizations will be hosting a panel on **"Toxic Legacy of the Nuclear Age: Waste, Health, and Sustainable Energy,"** in Conference Room A.

At 2:30 PM, Abolition 2000 will be holding a **Press Briefing** in the UNCA club.

At 1:15 PM, Religions for Peace, with the Standing Commission on Disarmament Security will be presenting **"Religion and Disarmament,"** at the Church Center, 2nd floor.

And then, the moment we have all been waiting for... **at 3 PM the NGOs will be delivering their presentations to the delegations.** Come hear over a dozen representatives present the analysis, expertise, and recommendations from civil society. Presenters include:

- Mayor Itoh of Nagasaki, Japan
- Susi Snyder of WILPF
- Jackie Cabasso of WSLF
- Sarah Estabrooks of Project Ploughshares, Canada
- Charlotte Wohlfahrt of International Law Campaign, Germany
- Rhianna Tyson of RCW/WILPF
- Ron McCoy of IPPNW, Malaysia
- Mayor Omelchenko of Kyiv, Ukraine
- Alice Slater of GRACE
- the Hon. Bill Perkins, Dep. Majority Leader, NYC
- Senator Patrick Vankrunkelsven, Belgium
- Abelina Shaw, Chief of Staff, Honolulu, Hawaii
- Mayor Pahatourides, Peristeri, Greece
- John Loretz of IPPNW, Boston
- Mayor Akiba of Hirshoma, Japan

And don't forget about the **WILPF 89th Anniversary Reception**, Wednesday, April 28, at 6:30 PM, at the Church Center, 2nd floor. **All are invited!**

SPOTLIGHT ON ALDERMASTON

- DI McDONALD, NUKEWATCH

The Ministry of Defence has withdrawn its first Outline Plan to West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) to develop Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) near Reading, following objections and legal opinion. The government plan to "be ready to" research and test materials for existing and new nuclear weapons will be resubmitted at an unspecified date, according to the Ministry of Defence. The new "Orion" Laser, with associated laboratories, is to be built as part of the AWE Sites Development Strategy Plan to get round the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) that prevents underground nuclear tests. The scheme also includes a supercomputer and hydrodynamics facility, although plans for a conference centre, accommodation block and landscaping have already been scraped. Key to the project, is the recruitment of 100+ scientists, whom AWE hope to attract by offering state-of-the-art equipment and close co-operation with scientists working on the United States nuclear weapons' programme.

To date no parliamentary debate has taken place on a successor to Trident or the development of a new more "usable" weapon. In its recent Defence White Paper, the government says it may make an announcement in the next parliament. Current policy remains that 'AWE needs the new infrastructure ready, in case a decision is made to develop a new weapon or a follow-on to Trident'. These developments will contravene the 1970 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and break the spirit, if not the letter, of the CTBT. Worst of all, such new weapons would make the threat of nuclear weapons being used in war more likely.

All Britain's nuclear warheads were built at Aldermaston. Currently AWE is slowly servicing the 180 or so Trident warheads based at RNAD Coulport in Scotland and decommissioning old warheads and production plant. AWE is needed to contribute these decommissioning skills to the practical process of nuclear disarmament and there is no question of closing the plant in the short to medium term. In the long-term, Verification technology is AWE's positive contribution to the international inspection requirements of disarmament and Treaty compliance. Jobs and contracts with the management consortium of BNFL, Lockheed Martin and Serco would be secure if the

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called for by the 1995 Package of Decisions as a basis for those discussions.

With disagreement apparent on many of the most pressing and consequential issues, some States are calling for a Chairperson's summary annexed to the consensus recommendations, if any are reached. This slight twist of mandate is sure to be rejected by the NWS, which would not want the grievances against them codified in an official document in this manner. South Africa indirectly commended the work of Chairman Molnar by suggesting that the current Chair follow the former Chair's example and include: "representations of the differing views of States Parties on specific issues...only...where more consensual language could not be found in the time available."

Revisiting Old Decisions

States also voiced serious reservations over the 1995 Review and Extension, including Algeria, the NAC and NAM States, which warned that the 9-year-old decision "did not equate to indefinite ownership of nuclear weapons," as argued in the NAC statement. New Zealand's impassioned and illuminating Minister of Disarmament, the Hon. Marian Hobbs, reminded delegates that the Strengthened Review Process calls on States to "look forward as well as back."

Rather than calling for a complete reaffirmation of the 13 Steps as a package, South Africa highlighted the grandest success of that document: the unequivocal undertaking to disarm. This language was a tremendous success, explained Mr. Goosen, in that it dispelled the notion of nuclear disarmament as "part of some 'ultimate' objective." Rather, "it made clear that...the elimination of nuclear weapons is a milestone that must be reached on the way to the ultimate objective of the disarmament process, namely, general and complete disarmament."

Proliferation Proposals

The proposals voiced earlier this year by U.S. President Bush and by IAEA Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei were also indirectly addressed by many States. States like the U.K. and Australia promoted the adoption of the Additional Protocol "as a condition of supply for...the Trigger List goods," in the words of U.K. Ambassador Broucher. These States also supported revoking the "right" to the nuclear fuel cycle from States suspected of being in non-compliance with non-proliferation requirements, an echo of Bush's February 11th address that Australia also supported.

What Disarmament Does NOT Look Like



illustration by Haik Hoisington

The U.K. and Australia also called for the expansion of the Proliferation Security Initiative, which will gain much legitimacy if the new Security Council resolution on non-proliferation is passed this week.

The resolution, which Members will vote on this Wednesday, was also touched upon by various States—curiously, mostly by those who support it, including the U.K., China, and Australia. South Africa, however, cautioned against "the potentially diminished role of Treaty regimes due to a reliance on the UN Security Council and the potential negative consequences for the NPT."

Negative Security Assurances

Negative Security Assurances (NSAs), a priority issue for many Non-Nuclear Weapon States, is also predicted to be a contentious point at next year's Review Conference, when States, mandated by the 2000 Final Document, are expected to reach new agreement. The U.K. stated plainly that they

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site was re-branded as a nuclear weapons Decommissioning and Verification Agency (DeVA). By abandoning funding new developments at AWE Aldermaston, the British government would be able to press on with the less costly but more valuable work of verification and decommissioning.

Last but not least, over 50 years of radioactive discharges from AWE have left a legacy of cancer-causing plutonium and uranium in the environment. Gaseous discharges have gone round the world, raising background radiation levels for everyone. In the local area, liquid and gaseous discharges have left radioactive hot spots and leukaemia clusters nearby. Discharges of plutonium, uranium, tritium and other radionuclides will continue to be released into the River Thames at Pangbourne until 2005. This contaminated site and nuclear waste store will require ventilation, monitoring, security and final reclamation over many years.

The current British nuclear weapons development project portends another nuclear arms race that is unjustifiable legally, morally, financially and militarily. It undermines the position of a government demanding that other countries disarm their Weapons of Mass Destruction and is detrimental to both British and global security.

Di McDonald
Nuclear Information Service

Invitation

Roundtable: "What European nuclear disarmament initiatives could there be?"

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Conference Room A, 1:15- 3 PM

Sponsored by Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament, Abolition 2000 UK, Mouvement de la Paix, Stop Essais/ Abolition des armes nucléaires

Topics include:

- * "What the EU could propose in order to start a nuclear disarmament process"
- * "Possible proposals from the UK"
- * "Possible proposals from France"
- * "Concerns from a European NNWS"
- * "What Defence Policy for the EU without nuclear weapons can be proposed?"

Contact Dominique Lalanne for more information

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are not willing to build on already existing assurances, such as those granted in the 1995 Package of Decisions and in the ratification of NWFZs such as South Pacific and Africa.

Subsidiary Body on Nuclear Disarmament

Many States, such as the NAC, NAM, and South Africa also urged consideration of the establishment of a subsidiary body on nuclear disarmament at the 2005 Review. The silence thus far from the NWS on this possibility suggests that this issue will evolve into a serious point of contention at this PrepCom.

At the foundation of the calls for a subsidiary body on nuclear disarmament at the 2005 Review Conference is the NNWS' severe disappointment in the lack of progress on disarmament and the imbalanced focus on non- and counter-proliferation by the NWS. Minister Hobbs' asserted that her country's "concern to press for compliance with all the obligations of the NPT is not myopic" and that "the international community has the right to expect all parties to honor their commitments comprehensively, not selectively." The NAM States endorsed this view, emphasizing "the importance of the full and non-selective implementation of the Treaty in nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful (sic) uses of nuclear energy."

The substantive discussion already being aired in just the first day of the PrepCom is a welcome sign. It demonstrates that States are not content to allow this much revered "cornerstone of disarmament" to wither away in inefficacy. As every State- and NGO- agrees, the international disarmament and nonproliferation regime is facing one of its most severe crises to date. Let's hope, though, that this isn't the only point of agreement. If States are to truly strengthen this crumbling regime- at the heart of which lies the NPT- they must continue to address these pertinent issues with the urgency expressed on the opening day.

- Rhianna Tyson, *Reaching Critical Will*

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nir@reachingcriticalwill.org

Never Again

- Susi Snyder, *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*

On the opening day of the NPT, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and Nihon Hidankyo (Japan Confederation of A- and H- Bomb Sufferers Organisations) held a panel discussion entitled: "Hibakusha Speak Out, Stories of Survivors". The panelists were Mr. Nobuyasu Abe, Under-Secretary General for Disarmament, Mr. Satoru Konishi, Hiroshima survivor, Mr. Sumiteru Taniguchi, Nagasaki survivor, and Ms. Reiko Yamada, also a survivor from Hiroshima. The panel was moderated by WILPF Delaware County branch member, Yoko Nishimura.

Ambassador Abe opened the panel with a glimmer of hope. He discussed the morning's General Debate, noting that there are two camps of delegates- some in New York to promote disarmament, some to promote nonproliferation, and that the two are nevertheless inextricably linked. He remarked that there are some States at this PrepCom which are advocating for nuclear disarmament in a time-bound framework. Ambassador Abe ended his speech with a reminder that the stories of the Hibakusha must never be forgotten and asked that we all carry them with us as a reminder of the unspeakable horror of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Konishi outlined the recommendations of the hibakusha to eliminate all nuclear weapons forever. He spoke of the increasing threat of nuclear weapons, the use of which, despite the historic agreement reached at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, seems more likely now than at any other time in recent history. Mr. Konishi further elaborated this belief by noting that there has never been a tribunal to judge those who dropped the atomic bombs guilty of a crime against humanity, and that the Nuclear Weapons States do not seem to have learned any lessons from the experiences of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Hidankyo is specifically calling on the United States to admit that the atomic bombing at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was a crime against international law and humanitarianism, and to give up ambitions for the further development of nuclear weapons. Hidankyo has asked all nations to start multilateral talks in order to conclude an international treaty for the elimination of nuclear weapons and to convene the fourth Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD IV).

Mr. Sumiteru Taniguchi was sixteen years old when a hydrogen bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki. He was a postal worker and on that morning was riding his bicycle, 1.8 kilometers north of what was to become the epicenter of the explosion. He remembered how so many hibakusha were

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Effective implementation of a transparent, verifiable nuclear disarmament process would provide those states possessing nuclear weapons with a mechanism to build international confidence. At the same time, it would negate the pretext of proliferators who seek to justify their need for nuclear weapons on the grounds of fear of the development or use of weapons of mass destruction by their enemies."

- *The Hon. Marion L. Hobbs, Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control for New Zealand, in her Keynote Address to the Middle Powers Initiative Forum, "Ensuring Full Implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty"*

burnt to a crisp and died while seeking water, calling out their names and addresses with their final breath- just hoping that someone would tell their families that they had died. Mr. Taniguchi sat behind two photographs taken of him at the time- one from just after the bombing, and another from nearly six months later. Mr. Taniguchi spent nearly four years in the hospital, trying to recover from his wounds. Always wondering why he lived and so many others died, he carries his story throughout the world to remind people of what an atomic bomb can do and insist that it never happen again.

Ms. Reiko Yamada was the final panelist. Her story of being a schoolgirl at the time of the Hiroshima blast, of what she witnessed among her schoolmates and friends was exceptionally moving. She recalled the food shortage that led to the planting of sweet potatoes in the schoolyard; how on the day of harvest, children pulled human hair and bones out of the ground with the sweet potatoes; how 140,000 people in Hiroshima and 70,000 in Nagasaki died by the end of that year. Ms. Yamada reminded those present that 64% of the dead were non-combatants, and 42% are still listed as missing.

Despite the horrific accounts of these courageous activists, all relayed the message that all hope is not lost. Japanese peace and anti-nuclear NGOs have joined forces to organize a major conference for the abolition of nuclear weapons, which will take place in Tokyo from 29-31 July, 2005. For more details about this conference, contact: Nihon Hidankyo- kj3ttnk@asahi-net.or.jp or view their website at: <http://www.ne.jp/asahi/hidankyo/nihon/>

Counterproliferation Policy and the future of the Nonproliferation Treaty

Experts Briefing for Delegates and NGO Representatives to the NPT Review Conference Preparatory Committee Meeting

Speakers:

Amb. Thomas Graham Jr., Lawyers Alliance for World Security
Martin Butcher, Physicians for Social Responsibility

When: April 28, 2004 1:15-2:45 pm

Where: U.N. Conference Room 5

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® 1875 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Suite 1012
Washington, D.C. 20009
ph: (202) 667-4260 fx: (202) 667-4201
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