



# NEWS IN REVIEW

A Collection of NGO Views on the NPT PrepCom 2004

May 3, 2004 - No. 6



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

## A POINT OF ORDER

The point of order raised last week by South Africa, supported by Mexico, Germany, Canada and Chile, opened the "cluster debates" of the NPT to NGOs and public scrutiny for the first time in this treaty body's thirty-four year history. NGOs have consistently called for greater access to the NPT debates since it entered into force in 1970, and conference papers have circulated on the modalities for NGO access for years, largely led by Canada with a lot of support from numerous States Parties. Increased transparency in the three cluster debates- on 1) disarmament and non-proliferation; 2) safeguards; and 3) peaceful uses- affirms the notion that security is rooted in governments' accountability to the people they represent. Democracy can only occur if the public has access to the negotiating record and the commitments made by their governments. This was quite a procedural achievement for the first week of the 6th PrepCom, created by the 1995 RevCon to make both substantive and procedural recommendation for enhanced implementation of the Treaty. NGOs can now better support States Parties to focus on the urgently relevant substantive decisions to be taken by this treaty body.

As we have been told for years, the closed debates vary little - if at all - from those given during the General Debate. 33 states requested to deliver an intervention during the Cluster 1 debate on disarmament and non-proliferation with the U.S. requesting - and receiving - two opportunities to speak. Many of the NNWS- including the Non-Aligned, South Africa, and Bangladesh- stressed that the 1995 indefinite extension of the Treaty should not be interpreted so as to justify the indefinite possession of nuclear weapons. Many States also voiced strong support for the CTBT's belated entry-into-force while calling for full implementation of all articles of the Treaty, as well as implementation of the 13 Steps.

The U.S., on the other hand, used the Cluster 1 debate- twice- to verbally attack Iran and North Korea, prompting once again a Right of Reply from the former. In a separate intervention, Iran accused the United States of violating Article III of the Treaty through its "nuclear cooperation" with Israel, a non-State

Party.

It is clear that the NNWS have prioritized two issues for this PrepCom: Negative Security Assurances (NSAs) and nuclear disarmament (with significant support voiced for resumed discussions on the Middle East). The NNWS are pushing hard for separate subsidiary bodies on these issues at next year's Review while maintaining steadfast support for full implementation of the 13 Steps. South Africa urged States to consider the consequences of nullifying the 13 Steps, a consensus-based document derived from painstaking negotiations only four years ago. Such consequences, warned the South African delegate, would not just affect the NPT, but all consensus-based agreements in the international security regime.

Like many other NPT observers, South Africa does not expect full agreement on NSAs at this PrepCom, and that "any possible substance will only be possible at the Review Conference." The goal, therefore, is to reach common understanding on how to tackle this work, and to create subsidiary bodies on these issues in 2005. South Africa reminded States that the 2000 Review called upon this PrepCom to make substantive recommendations on the issue of NSAs to the next Review Conference.

We at WILPF believe that South Africa should not have to shoulder the responsibility to make every necessary point of order. Mustn't they get tired of pointing out the obvious to their contemporaries and reminding them of their duties? First, South Africa was compelled to remind States Parties of the erroneous interpretation of Rule 44.4 and the way in which this interpretation stymied transparency and democracy. Then they had to remind them that the PrepCom is *mandated* to make recommendations on NSAs, a mandate that may not be fulfilled at this conference.

Therefore, the Editors would like to relieve South Africa- one of the only States to ever verifiably, irreversibly and irrevocably destroy its nuclear arsenal- of the

*continued on page 6*

*All articles contained in the News In Review are the sole responsibility of the author or organization submitting the piece. The opinions herein are not necessarily those of the Editors, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) or the Reaching Critical Will project.*

## YOUTH CAUCUS THERAPY

I am always trying to blend in when in Conference Room 4. When I first got to New York, I had entirely inappropriate hippie clothes, all purple. During lunchtime on Friday in Conference Room 4, I was trying to blend in again, but this time I was trying to look half my age because I was with kids from 5 high schools at the NPT Youth Caucus.

Recall that Conference Room 4 is very bright and reveals all. I know this because I have spent significant amounts of time aging in its neon over the last 7 years, and have celebrated several dozen special occasions from the podium and the floor. I have also been mind bogglingly bored there. On occasion I have justified playing Midnight Oil CDs in the public gallery, desperately needing background music to the words that are repeated, contested, diluted, erased, right justified, left qualified, re-drafted, bracketed, crossed out, italicized and then printed in 6 languages.

Today I was the most entertained I have ever been in Conference Room 4. Today I wanted to scream, and did. This could be explained by the fact that I wasn't there when Ambassador Salander sang his summary of the 2002 NPT. I definitely would have screamed then too. But today when a group of 8 high school kids concerned about getting rid of nuclear weapons read selected paragraphs of Arundhati Roy's The End of Imagination, we all screamed.

In response to that reading, about 12 kids, mostly girls, got up and spoke in the open mike session. One boy represented a lack of belief that peace is possible. Others read the best poems I've heard in a Very Long Time. Then a group of kids danced. I mean we had some get down and get back up again dancing, and some great rap. I clapped so much it was bordering on physical therapy, which is dangerous for me. It was good soul therapy too, the kind that most NPT goers need lashings and lashings of by the last day of the first week.

Now it is the first day of the last week. Get as much of this kind of therapy that you can get, in between working very hard to organize the demise of radioactive fear. I mean, deliberately do something that affirms your hope, because it could be that we are going to evolve from nuclear terror through nuclear disarmament.

You decide.

## Mother Earth On her Death Bed

- Omar McCray, SANITY

**Our mother, Our mother earth is on her death bed.  
Absorbing all of the world's problems, taking them  
in as her own, like any mother would.**

**But what is a mother, to fully appreciate the duties  
of a mother u must know  
what a mother is.**

**a mother according to webster is:**

**"To give birth to; create, produce. to watch over  
and protect and care for".**

**Mother earth has been all of that to us. Our mother  
is dying, our own mother is dying from all of the  
worlds problems we have bestowed on her. terror-  
ism, racism, AIDS, lying politicians, she has  
endured it all.**

**what will we do when our mother is gone?**

**who will look after us then?**

**who will provide us with shelter and care, shower  
us with warm embrace of sunny days?**

**who?**

**we are her children, i believe when it rains,  
it is our mother on her death bed crying, crying  
wondering what has went wrong in a world with so  
much promise.**

**we are killing our mother  
slowly...she is what we  
see, speak, eat and  
breathe.**

**lets all try to get our  
mother well again,  
just think if your own  
mother is gone...what  
will you do?**



## NATO NUCLEAR DOCTRINE AND THE NPT

*-Karel Koster, Project on European Nuclear Non-proliferation (Netherlands)*

In the many presentations made to the NPT PrepCom last week numerous references were made to the various steps towards nuclear disarmament which need to be taken. Unfortunately no explicit reference to NATO nuclear policy was made. That is most peculiar, since there is a glaring contradiction between the commitments made by NATO states towards nuclear disarmament and the continued reliance of official NATO policy on nuclear weapons. For example, the Final Communiqué of the NATO Ministerial Meeting of the Defence Planning Committee and the Nuclear Planning Group held in Brussels on Thursday, 12 June 2003 stated: "We reaffirmed the principles underpinning NATO's nuclear forces as set out in the Alliance's Strategic Concept. We continue to place great value on the nuclear forces based in Europe and committed to NATO, which provide an essential political and military linkage between the European and the North American members of the Alliance."

On being questioned on this NATO diplomats repeatedly assert that this reliance is minimal. The fact remains that one of the cornerstones of NATO security remains the maintenance of a nuclear deterrent, consisting of between 150 and 180 US owned gravity bombs dispersed at airfields in six NATO member states: Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Greece, Turkey, Italy (it has been suggested in the media that the weapons at Araxos airbase in Greece have been withdrawn). In time of war the bombs would be transferred from US custodial units at these bases to NATO tactical aircraft flown by the pilots of the nations listed above. In peacetime these crews are trained to deliver the weapons, while almost all the NATO member states are involved in devising the plans to use them, including targeting.

The basic schizophrenia between the commitments by the NATO states to the NPT on the one hand, and their continued deployment of nuclear weapons, on the other, came to the fore especially clearly in the so-called 'paragraph 32' report of Dec 2000 (13-Dec-2000 NATO Press Releases (Excerpts) M-NAC-2(2000)121 Report on Options for Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs), Verification, Non-Proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament December 2000). In this document the thirteen steps towards nuclear disarmament of the final document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference were taken up, along with the continued commitment to

a nuclear strike doctrine.

Parts of the NATO leadership (the US perhaps) seem to have accepted that something should be done about the contradiction. General Jones, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander as well as commander of U.S. forces in Europe, announced on 9 March in the Belgian Senate that the US would reduce its nuclear weapons in Europe. Further questioning of the Belgian government by parliamentarians resulted on 1 April in the confirmation of this plan by Belgian foreign minister Michel, who also mentioned that it had been discussed in NATO. The Dutch government responded to similar questions with the standard non-response on all things related to NATO nuclear weapons.



Nevertheless, General Jones' comments were perhaps not made off the cuff. A US report to the Pentagon on 'Future Strategic Strike Forces' by the Defense Science Board Task Force, published in February 2004, suggested eliminating the nuclear role for forward-based, tactical dual capable aircraft. Other sources suggested that this plan fitted in nicely with oft-repeated Russian demands that all tactical nuclear weapons should be withdrawn

to the territory of the owner country. Speculation in the UN corridors is that in this way the Russians would be compensated to some degree for the enlargement of NATO eastwards.

Whatever the truth of the matter, the NGO world should be aware of the distinction between withdrawing part (or even all) of the tactical nuclear weapons on the one hand, and abandoning NATO nuclear policy, on the other.

A withdrawal, while a positive signal, would in no way constitute the NATO abandoning its nuclear doctrine. That fact is of some importance, because the enlargement of the alliance eastwards essentially constitutes the creation of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone-in-reverse: the number of countries committed to supporting and planning for the use of nuclear weapons is actually increasing. That would seem to be entirely the wrong message for NATO to give the rest of the world, when it tries at the same time to convince it that non-proliferation efforts should be strengthened.

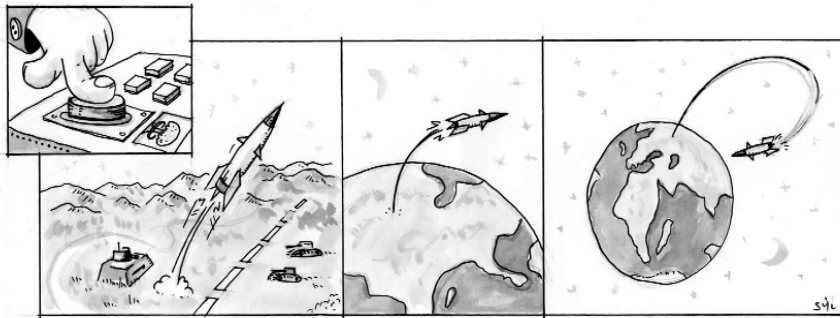
## Panel Spotlight: Opposing Vertical Proliferation

by April Stanley, WILPF UNO

The April 29th panel discussion on opposing vertical proliferation showcased a variety of intriguing speakers all of whom had thought provoking ideas about striving for global nuclear disarmament. Janet Bloomfield, of the Atomic Mirror, began the discussion by highlighting that the connection between the United States and the United Kingdom spills into the realms of nuclear testing and technology. Ms. Bloomfield stressed that a global network for nuclear disarmament has already been established and the next and most critical step is to establish a global campaign in order to accomplish goals associated with nuclear disarmament. She also emphasized the necessity for those at the panel to "get out of our comfort zone" in order to educate the public and make more broad connections to create that global campaign.

Jacqueline Cabasso, of Western States Legal Foundation, spoke of the changes in the US nuclear strategic triad since the end of the Cold War, and the lack of changes in the policy since 1945. In addition to "defensive" approaches, the new strategic triad includes a new emphasis on research and development infrastructure. Ms. Cabasso made the point that presidential administrations since 1945 have not changed nuclear policy, but rather based it on the previous administration's policy, only with different justification. She also spoke of the "life-extending insurance" the US has for some nuclear weapons facilities. Ms. Cabasso stated, "We don't have national health insurance in the US...but we have health insurance for ageing nuclear arsenals." In addition, she called for a stronger grassroots approach in working towards achieving global nuclear disarmament.

David Krieger of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation demonstrated the depth of the problem at hand by recalling his experience with students of the University of California-which provides management and oversight to the nations two primary nuclear weapons laboratories. He had asked students if they feel a responsibility in attempting to change the relationship between their higher learning institution and its part in the



## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Much of the material, technology and expertise required for WMD programmes can be found in the UK and many of those seeking to develop WMD try to acquire these here."

- MI5, UK Security Service

(<http://www.mi5.gov.uk/output/Page161.html>)

## CORRECTION

In the *News in Review*, No. 5, the NIR mistakenly attributed the article, "Report from a Citizen Weapon Inspector" to Carol Naughton of BASIC. Ms. Naughton represents West Midland Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

research, development, and testing of nuclear weapons. Some students responded that they did feel a certain responsibility in changing the situation, but many were content that the US possesses the weapons rather than certain other countries. Unfortunately some students felt justified in that the US "had never used them"--obviously forgetting the massive devastation caused on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Mr. Krieger concluded by emphasizing the need to educate and mobilize people in regards to this issue.

Roland Nivet of Mouvement de la Paix emphasized that if global nuclear disarmament is to become a reality, it must be linked to the social, political, and economic realms

of society. Although many people feel nuclear disarmament is in the future, he has confidence that it must first be major political issue before countries disarm.

Alice Slater of the Global Resource Action Center for the Environment concluded the panel discussion by speaking about ways to get involved in this movement. Important upcoming weekend events are The Town Meeting on April 30th and the MAYDAY!! DISARM rally on May 1st both in protest of the increasing threat of nuclear war.

# NPT: Now it's the People's Turn

*by Emma McGregor-Mento, Abolition 2000 and  
Susi Snyder, WILPF UNO*

On the one-year anniversary of George W. Bush's declaration of "victory" in Iraq from the flight deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln under a Mission Accomplished banner, peace groups and citizens from around the world rallied in Bryant Park for May Day 2004 – No More Nuclear Excuses for War, to voice their opposition to the aggressive and unilateral pre-emptive U.S. war doctrine.

The rally, co-sponsored by United for Peace and Justice, took place on a beautiful spring day in Bryant Park- behind the main NY public library. Hiroshima and Nagasaki bomb survivors signed 'peace bricks' from German students, who constructed a 'wall of peace' around the fountain in the park, while the crowd were treated to performances by Binari, a Korean American Traditional Cultural Activist Troup, and Tatsumaki, a rock band from Japan.

The crowd, who reached 1,500 people, listened to international experts -- including Mayor Itoh of Nagasaki, Dr. Ronald McCoy, President of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Motarilava Hilda Lini from the Pacific Concerns Resource Center in Fiji, and Heesook Kim from Young Koreans United -- make the link between nuclear disarmament and pre-emptive war. The rally demonstrated that citizens will not idly stand by while the U.S. modernizes its vast nuclear arsenal, and hypocritically continues to threaten the world with nuclear weapons.

On April 30th, a group of civil society organizations were joined by over 300 members of the public in a town hall meeting, which filled All Souls Church to its capacity. This meeting, sponsored by Abolition 2000 – a global network working for to eliminate nuclear weapons - was designed to educate and activate the public around nuclear issues.

A series of three panels were held- the first talked about citizen's weapons inspections, the second delved into international law and US nuclear policy, and the third continued to educate about US new nuclear development. Speakers included: Damu Smith of Black Voices for Peace; Zia Mian from Princeton University, who

*continued on page 6*

## What's On This Week at the PrepCom

### Monday

9 AM: Ambassador Meyer of the Canadian delegation will brief the NGOs in Conference Room A.

10 AM: Global Action to Prevent War hosts a panel: "Nuclear Weapons and Preventing War" in Conf. Room A.

1:15: NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security presents: "Enforcing the NPT" also in Conf. Room A

3:30: Open Meeting on the NGO Presentations Process: A Review of the Process, Conf. Room A.

### Tuesday

9 AM: Ambassador Duarte, President of the 2005 Review Conference, will brief the NGOs in Conf. Room A.

10 AM: Alliance for Nuclear Accountability Panel: "The Current Status of the US Nuclear Weapons Complex", Conf. Room A

3PM: WILPF panel: "Women, WMD and Preventing War," Conf. Room A

1:15: IAEA workshop, Conference Room VII

### Wednesday

9 AM: Debbie Grisdale, NGO representative on the Canadian delegation will brief NGOs in Conf. Room A.

10 AM: CTBTO Briefing, Conference Room A

1 PM: IEER Panel: "Nuclear Targeting", Conf. Room A

### Thursday

9:30 AM- 4 PM: Indigenous Women Caucus Meeting: Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, at the UNCC.

10 AM: The French delegation has been invited to brief the NGOs in Conf. Room A.

At noon, OPANAL, the Secretariat of the Tlatelolco Treaty, will be hosting a briefing in Conference Room A.

1:15 PM: Educators for Social Responsibility Workshop on Disarmament Education: "Learning and Demonstrating Techniques to Raise Nuclear Awareness in a Younger Generation", Conf. Room A

### Friday

10 AM: Briefing from the Chair, Conf. Room A.

**Every Day 8 AM:** Abolition 2000 daily Strategy Session on the 8th floor of the UNCC.

## Panel Spotlight: The WMD Are Right Here

- Dulce Fernandes, WILPF UNO

The panel on "Citizens' Weapons Inspections" (CWIs) held on Friday discussed the achievements and difficulties of this direct action technique used by activists to raise awareness to the nuclear weapons holdings in the NWS and in countries where these weapons are deployed. Steve Sapples, from the Polaris Institute in Canada, initiated the meeting by underlying the importance of CWIs within the general goal of disarmament. He pointed out that CWIs both challenge the definition of rough nations, by bringing the issue of inspections home, and also call for the democratization of the security policies of the NWS.

Bill Sulzman, from the Global Network against Nuclear Weapons and Power in Space, drew attention to the case of the three Dominican sisters Ardeth Platte, Carol Gilbert, and Jackie Hudson, now serving time in prison (ranging from 30 to 41 months) for their CWI action in Colorado in 2002. The sisters were tried and convicted for cutting the fence of the military facility where nuclear missiles are on 24-hour alert and for hammering the silo lid where nuclear weapons are stored. Elizabeth McAlister, a long time peace activist, also drew attention to several other cases in which citizens who spoke up for disarmament faced grave consequences, as the example of Mordechai Vanunu, the technician who spent 18 years in prison (12 of which in solitary confinement) for denouncing the development of the Israeli nuclear program. McAlister called for the need to activists not to give up and keep their hope in the face of these extraordinary examples of commitment.

Pol D'Hyvetter, A For Mother Earth activist, reviewed the effectiveness of the CWIs campaign in Belgium. He pointed out that citizens all over the world have not just the legal right, but also the legal obligation, to try to stop the preparation of crimes against humanity, as the ones perpetrated by the use of nuclear weapons. D'Hyvetter indicated that the effectiveness of the CWIs in Belgium is closely related to the involvement and participation of MPs in the campaign and that there is now the possibility that U.S. nuclear weapons will be withdrawn from Belgium. The panel, organized by the Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy was facilitated by Anabel Dwyer and included also the interventions of Greg Mello, from the Los Alamos Study Group, and Jeff Wilson, from Students for Economic Justice.

## Point of Order, continued from page 1

responsibility to make one final, critical point of order.

Through the Review Process, States Parties are required to review the progress made in disarmament and to plan for further reductions. Yet the PrepCom continues to allow the U.S. to evade the dozens of calls of concerns over its vertical proliferation, even in the Cluster 1 debate. Russia, on the other hand, did address the criticisms made against the Moscow Treaty, in addition to providing a comprehensive overview of the tasks that it is undertaking in the name of Article VI. But with the renegade U.S. continually defining the terms of debate, Conference Room IV is thus relegated to nothing more than a black hole vortex into which the concerns of the majority are voiced and subsequently lost.

We therefore call upon States Parties to revisit the mandate of the Review Process. They must not only identify the ways in which the Treaty is working and where it is not, but they must employ the strengthened review process as a tool to address and rectify problems created by non-compliance to all articles of the Treaty.

We must also point out that States Parties are to be employing the principle of transparency in the field of disarmament and nonproliferation. Reporting, for instance, is an important confidence-building measure that works to promote this important, democratic principle. Open debates- general as well as cluster and special time- are another way by which States can promote transparency, a point already well made.

- *Reaching Critical Will*

## People's Turn, continued from page 5

spoke of the Bush Administration's strength and influence to extend imperial control; and Dr. Helen Caldicott, who gave an impassionate speech on the health atrocities of depleted uranium contamination in Iraq. NYC Council Member Bill Perkins - working with the Mayors for Peace campaign - received rapturous applause for announcing that the city council just passed a proclamation for April 28th to be Nuclear Weapons Abolition Day in New York City.

Overwhelmingly, speakers emphasized that there needs to be a serious shift in US policy, and that the upcoming presidential election is extremely important, and if Bush is either elected or re-selected, then there needs to be a revolution.