



NEWS IN REVIEW

A Collection of NGO Views on the NPT PrepCom 2004

May 5, 2004 - No. 8



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom-

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PLAYING CHESS WITH DAMOCLES

International relations have often been described as a complex game of chess, played on multiple boards simultaneously, wherein a decision on one board directly affects the strategies and opportunities on all the others.

Over the past week and a half that this PrepCom has been in session, the accuracy of this metaphor has been highlighted several times. First, the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) were given fresh impetus in their quest to frame the discussion on non-proliferation, rather than disarmament, when Security Council Resolution 1540 was passed last week. The resolution, as the *News in Review* has commented several times, struck a blow to the delicate balance between disarmament and nonproliferation by failing to reaffirm the intrinsic link between the two indivisible goals.

The multidimensional chess game was in full action yesterday at the UN as well, as the PrepCom devoted special time to Regional Issues while the "Quartet"- the UN, U.S., E.U., and Russia- met in a separate part of the building to discuss the tattered Road Map to peace in the Middle East.

Nearly a dozen States took the floor to call for Israel's accession to the treaty- the main obstacle in the creation of a Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (NWFZ)- and to reaffirm the urgency of universalization and the denuclearization of the volatile region. The United States, meanwhile, utilized the Special Time to once again accuse Iran of "serious violation of its NPT obligations."

France, the only other Nuclear Weapon State to take the floor yesterday, heralded Security Council resolution 687 and the proposals from Egyptian President Mohammed Mubarak, and offered a "checklist" of conditions necessary to create a much needed "new regional security framework." In order to achieve a NWFZ in the tumultuous region, France called for: an established dialogue amongst all parties; compliance with NPT commitments from the region's States Parties; cessation

of arms and delivery systems proliferation; strict adherence to the NPT, CWC, BTWC, and the CTBT; adoption of Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and the placement of all facilities under IAEA monitors; the elimination of existing stockpiles of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as well as their means of delivery; and more.

It could be argued that had the 1995 Review and Extension Conference not adopted the resolution on the Middle East as part of the "Package of Decisions," States Parties might not have been able to ascertain the indefinite extension that prolonged the treaty's lifespan. Although the resolution has yet to be implemented, it remains, as Kuwait remarked yesterday, "an integral part" of the international disarmament and nonproliferation regime.

The absence of further decisions on the Middle East at the 2000 Review Conference was entirely due to the possibility of the 13 Practical Steps. In 2000, Non Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS) in the Middle East were temporarily content to relegate the region to the back burner in exchange for the "unequivocal undertaking" by the NWS to disarm. Now that the NWS have clearly reneged on that diplomatic achievement, the NNWS are duly determined to reprioritize the Middle East as a front issue for the NPT at the next Review.

While the Quartet deliberates how to reconcile Israel's proposed withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, States Parties trek back to their Missions to consider how the NPT can best address the crisis.

Neither framework is likely to discover a silver bullet in the next few days. But, as pawns and bishops scuttle across their separate boards, the nuclear sword of Damocles continues to loom over the Middle East and the entire world.

- Rhianna Tyson, *Reaching Critical Will*

PANEL SPOTLIGHT: THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE US NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPLEX: FROM DESIGNING TO REFINING

- Monika Szymurska, WILPF UNO

A panel discussion on the current status of US nuclear weapons took place on Tuesday in Conference Room A, the nucleus for NGO activity and dialogue during the NPT PrepCom. Sponsored by the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, a network of citizen's groups monitoring activities at nuclear sites in the US, the panel featured independent experts and activists who provided a comprehensive overview of the weapons complex, as well as NPT-relevant developments and activities at key nuclear sites.

There are eight active and functioning nuclear weapons production complexes in the US:

- *Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, California
- *Nevada Test Site, west of Las Vegas, on land belonging to the Western Shoshone Nation
- *Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico
- *Los Alamos National Laboratory in north central New Mexico
- *Pantex Plant, northeast of Amarillo, Texas
- *Kansas City Plant in Kansas City, Missouri
- *Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee
- *Savannah River Site in Aiken and Barnwell Counties on South Carolina/Georgia border.

The discussion focused on four out of the eight active and functioning nuclear weapons complexes, Los Alamos, Y12, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and the Savannah River Site.

Jacqueline Cabasso, of Western States Legal Foundation, introduced the panel and gave a brief overview of the role US national strategic triad plays in formulating US national security's strong reliance on nuclear and military power projection. She also gave a brief overview of developments at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, whose 2005 fiscal budget is at an all time high matching Cold War spending for nuclear programs.

Ralph Hutchison, from Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, a 32,000 member grassroots organization, discussed nuclear facilities and developments in Tennessee, including the shut-down K25 facility previously used for uranium enrichment; the Oak Ridge National site, currently a nuclear energy research facility that produced plutonium

and weapons prior to 1950's; and a dual-use (civilian-military) reactor in Spring City which began producing tritium last September. Hutchison gave an in-depth overview of the Y12 National Security Complex, where currently, components from "aging" nuclear weapons are being refurbished and their stockpile life extended to 100-120 years. Stockpile life extension is a serious deterrent of disarmament and a violation of non-proliferation measures.

Loulana Miles, of Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment, followed with a discussion of plans for weapon-production infrastructure at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Recently, LLNL has prototyped new production technologies for plutonium pits and furthered developments of the earth-penetrating mini-nuclear weapons. The recent proposals to change the character of the lab are in direct violation of the NPT and the CTBT and provide future fuel for the arms race.

Lou Zeller, of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, gave a perspective from the southern states, specifically from the communities surrounding the Savannah River Site. Zeller called the area a "nuclear nightmare", with more than 30 nuclear accidents taking place since SRS started operation, releasing air-borne and water contaminants into the environment. Currently, the US government is proposing SRS as the site for large-scale plutonium pit production. Construction of a tritium extraction facility is also underway with the goal of ensuring the supply of tritium to maintain nuclear weapons stockpiles. The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League has responded to developments at SRS by tracking dangerous nuclear waste shipments and compiling "People's Resolution for US Adherence to the NPT", posted on their website, www.bredl.org.

Current research and developments at US nuclear weapons facilities, along with a review of key US policy documents, such as the Nuclear Posture Review, and US budget projections unmask US policy initiatives that violate the principles of Article VI of the NPT, to dismantle nuclear weapons and cease the nuclear arms race. As Hutchison noted, violating the NPT violates international law and subsequently the US constitution, which states that treaties are the supreme law of the land.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Fighting terrorism with nuclear weapons is like cutting cheese with a chainsaw."

- Mitsuo Okamoto, Hiroshima Shudo University

RETHINKING THE FISSBAN

- Emma McGregor-Mento, *Abolition 2000*

The need to control nuclear materials and technology was first recognized sixty-five years ago, when available quantities of such materials were measured in micro-grams. Today, the amount of weapons-usable material in global circulation is nearly 2 million kilograms. Despite being on the international agenda for many years, no treaty prohibiting the production of fissile materials has been negotiated.

The nuclear weapon states and most of their allies support only a narrowly defined treaty that would simply ban future production of fissile material for nuclear weapons - hence the Fissile Material "Cut-Off" Treaty (FMCT). An FMCT has largely been seen as a non-proliferation measure rather than a disarmament initiative by the five nuclear weapons states in the NPT.

Choosing not to negotiate a narrow and flawed Treaty, Greenpeace believes the only effective solution is a Comprehensive Fissile Material Treaty (CFMT). Both a disarmament and non-proliferation initiative, the CFMT addresses the vast stockpiles of weapons-usable material located around the world, and takes into account the fact that all plutonium - including that produced in civil nuclear reactors - can be used to produce nuclear weapons.

Citing Pakistan as an example of a state that procured the technology to start its nuclear program, Greenpeace International has released a report on the symbiotic relationship between nuclear energy and nuclear weapons. The report highlights how easily civil nuclear technology can be acquired then put to military use.

Motivated by the possibility of nuclear terrorism, ElBaredei, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director-General, has cited the threat from fissile materials proliferation as an issue requiring radical steps, and wants to put facilities capable of enriching uranium and extracting plutonium under international control. Some countries that are advanced in nuclear development, such as Japan, are opposed to his plan. Continuing to undermine non-proliferation efforts, the IAEA promotes the nuclear fuel cycle - including the development of fast reactors and use of plutonium MOX fuels. The U.S., and the IAEA, now bears a large responsibility for the fissile material now threatening global peace and security.

Reaching Critical Finances

- Daily reporting in the News in Review;
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- Statements and documents posted on our web in real-time;
 - Organization of side events;
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- Daily briefings from governments;
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 - Daily NGO strategy session;
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 - NGO resource center;
 - NGO Shadow Report....

If your government or organization has found any of these services offered by Reaching Critical Will useful, we urge you to make a donation today. While RCW operates on a shoe-string budget (less than \$50,000 a year), we, like most other disarmament-focused projects, are facing our worst financial crisis to date. In fact, if we do not raise these minimal funds, there might not be a Reaching Critical Will to assist you at next year's crucial Review Conference.

To make a donation, you can either find Susi or Rhianna, or send a check to: RCW c/o Jane Addams Peace Association, 777 UN Plaza, 6th floor, New York, NY 10017.

Again, every bit helps and we hope you consider supporting this valuable work.



Canada Responds

The Canadian delegation would like respond to Karel Koster's article in *NIR* of May 3 "NATO Nuclear Doctrine and the NPT" where he asserted that "unfortunately no explicit reference to NATO nuclear policy was made" by countries during their statements of the first week.

Canada would like to draw to the attention of *NIR* readers its Cluster I statement of April 30. In that statement Canada said "Pursuant to Step 9, Canada supports the reduced salience of nuclear weapons and the further reduction of nuclear weapons of all ranges and categories. In this regard, we flag the significant reduction of NATO nuclear forces that has taken place over the last 15 years, including extensive reductions in the operational status of the residual nuclear weapon system. As a member of NATO, we continue to advocate that the Alliance play a positive role in advancing arms control and disarmament objectives, through a concerted step-by-step approach. We commend the Basic Fact Sheets 'NATO's Position Regarding Nuclear Non-proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament and Related Issues' and 'NATO's Nuclear Forces in the New Security Environment', as important transparency initiatives, which provide to the international community relevant information on NATO policy and activity. We urge other States possessing nuclear weapons to emulate these confidence-building initiatives."

Article VI Reporting

In their intervention under Cluster I, Brazil suggested "that the Secretariat put together a comparative table" of interventions made by NWS during this PrepCom as "a means for a better evaluation of such measures... (to be) used at the Review Conference in 2005."

Perhaps Brazil and all delegations would like to know that Reaching Critical Will has already compiled such a report.

The *NGO Shadow Report: Accountability is Democracy, Transparency is Security*, available outside of Conference Room IV and on our website, serves as a model for State reporting under Step 12 of the 13 Practical Steps. In addition to listing all of the measures taken by each NWS under Article VI obligations, the Shadow Report also lists all nuclear holdings- military and civilian- in each of the 44 States listed in the Annex II of the CTBT.

If your delegation has not received its complimentary copy of the Shadow Report, contact RCW today.

info@reachingcriticalwill.org

Today at the PrepCom

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

9 AM: **Debbie Grisdale, NGO rep on the Canadian delegation** briefs the NGOs in Conf. Room A.

10 AM: **CTBTO Briefing**, Conference Room A

Noon: **OPANAL**, the Secretariat of the Tlatelolco Treaty, will be hosting a briefing in Conference Room A.

1 PM: IEER Panel: "**Nuclear Targeting**" in Conference Room A

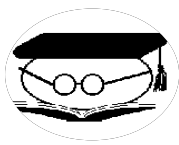
Calendar Correction

On Thursday, the French delegation will be briefing the NGOs at **9 AM** in Conference Room A. Apologies for any confusion.

Report Card for Japan

Since 2002, the Peace Depot, a Japanese peace/disarmament research organization, has issued "Report Cards" every year based on its assessment of the 13+2 Steps (the 13 practical steps for the implementation of Article VI, plus two steps that are deeply connected to Japan's security policy regarding Article VII of its constitution). Believing that the implementation of the 13+2 steps is not only the obligation of Nuclear Weapon States but also a critical agenda to nuclear-dependent states, such as Japan, many concerned citizens in various districts of Japan, most notably in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, have participated in the annual evaluation process.

Copies are available outside of Conference Room IV. Please also visit the Peace Depot's website, <http://www.peacedepot.org> or contact Keiko Nakamuro at nakamuro@peacedepot.org for more information.



Atomic Puzzler

Excerpted from *Science for Democratic Action* (newsletter of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research), Vol. 9, No. 2, February 2001

Gamma, Dr. Egghead's trusty dog, has been reading a lot lately about plutonium disposition, breeder reactors, and mixed-oxide (MOX) fuel. However, being a canine, much of it goes over his head. To help him brush up on his skills, Dr. Egghead administered to Gamma a lengthy exam. Gamma is stuck on the following questions. Can you help?

1. How is plutonium made?

- By sending an unmanned spacecraft to Pluto where it retrieves samples from the planet's surface and returns them to earth.
- By a magic dog that lives in Disney World.
- By heating water under high pressure, then cooling it very rapidly.
- By irradiating uranium-238. (Plutonium is also found naturally in trace quantities.)

2. Which one of the following countries draws the highest percentage of its energy supply from nuclear power?

- USA

- Germany
- France
- Russia

3. Characteristics of plutonium include:

- known carcinogen
- used to strengthen dental braces
- non-radioactive
- all of the above

4. True or False: Most of the plutonium generated in the United States is a result of military activities.

5. True or False: Plutonium first began to be used as a fuel source because it was thought that reliance on nuclear power would increase and that the scarcity of uranium would plutonium a cost effective fuel source.

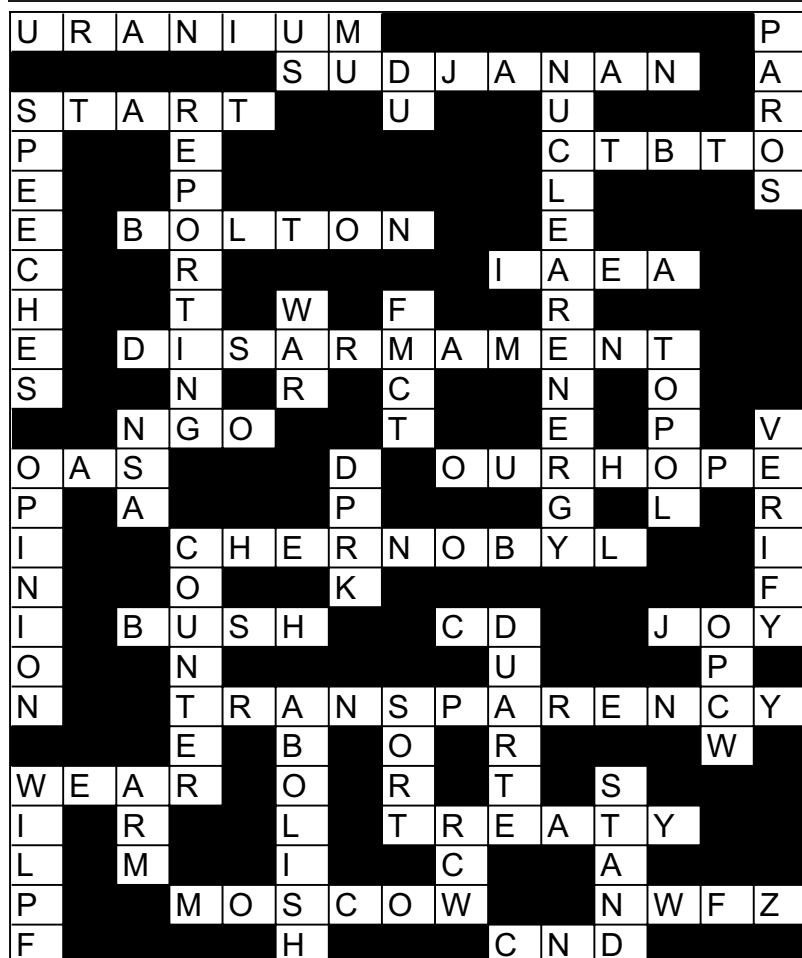
6. True or False: Germany is the only country with operating nuclear power plants that has decided to phase out nuclear power.

7. Given that (i) the rate of increase of commercially separated plutonium = 10 metric tons per year, (ii) the rate of increase of separated military plutonium = 1.0 metric ton per year, (iii) as of December 1, 1999, the stock of commercially separated plutonium = 205 metric tons, and (iv) as of December 1, 1999, the stock of separated military plutonium = 250 metric tons, answer the following:

- Estimate, in metric tons, the stocks of both commercial and military separated plutonium on the following dates: December 1, 2000, December 1, 2001, and December 1, 2002. (Assume rates of increase remain constant.)
- At what date (month and year) will the weight of the stocks of commercially separated plutonium and separated military plutonium be equal?
- Assuming that it takes one metric ton of weapon-grade (military) plutonium to manufacture 200 nuclear weapons, use your answers from question 6a to calculate the number of nuclear weapons that could be manufactured with the entire stock of separated weapon-grade plutonium on December 1, 2000.
- Assuming that it takes 1.4 metric tons commercial-grade plutonium to manufacture 200 nuclear weapons, use your answers from question 6(a) to calculate the number of nuclear weapons that could be manufactured with the entire stock of separated commercial-grade plutonium on December 1, 2000.
- What is the total number of nuclear weapons that could be created out of the total separated plutonium stocks (combined military and commercial) on December 1, 2000?



DISARMAMENT CROSSWORD ANSWERS



OOPS! we apologize for misspelling Chairman Sudjadnan's name incorrectly in the crossword.

Answers will be available in tomorrow's NIR

You are invited to a panel discussion

U.S. and Soviet Nuclear Targeting and Nuclear Threats As Engines of Proliferation

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

61st anniversary of the first nuclear targeting decision

1:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room A
United Nations building

Panelists:

Dr. Arjun Makhijani

IEER president and leading expert on security, health, and environmental aspects of nuclear weapons. Co-author of *Target Japan*, on the U.S. decision to bomb Hiroshima-Nagasaki

Dr. Alla Yaroshinskaya

President of Ecological Center, former advisor to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and an expert on nuclear nonproliferation. Recipient of the 1992 Right Livelihood Award.

Daniel Ellsberg (invited)

Lecturer, writer, and activist on the dangers of the nuclear era and unlawful interventions. Author of the recent book, *Secrets: A Memoir of Vietnam and the Pentagon Papers*.

The panel will examine the history of nuclear threats and nuclear targeting policies of the United States and Soviet Union from the Manhattan Project to the present. The panelists will discuss how horizontal nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament goals can be joined, and the central role of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in that process.

The panel is sponsored by the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER), a non-governmental organization based in the United States that provides the public and policy makers with sound scientific and technical information. IEER has worked extensively on many aspects of nuclear weapons development, from disarmament and nonproliferation issues to environmental and health impacts. For more information about IEER, visit <http://www.ieer.org>.

For further information about this event call 1-301-270-5500 or e-mail ieer@ieer.org.