



News In Review

A collection of NGO views on the NPT PrepCom 2002

April 16, 2002 - No. 7



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The Middle East : The Usual Suspects, the Usual Rhetoric

The second week of the NPT PrepCom began yesterday with discussion on Cluster 2: regional issues. To be expected, the major topic was the Middle East, although some countries did speak briefly on the issues of South Asia and North Korea. The Middle East is always an issue of deep concern and strong opinions, especially with the current violence and turmoil in the region. The focus of discussion was the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the establishment of an effectively verifiable nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East. Most countries, such as Japan and Jordan expressed their concern about the lack of progress in the implementation of this resolution, along with the UNGA Resolution 56/21, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

In reference to Israel (as the only country in the region with nuclear weapons, also not a party to the NPT) several states called for its accession "to the NPT without delay and place all of its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards" (Indonesia, 15 April 2002). The language on Israel was tempered by two nuclear weapons states (United States and France, 15 April 2002) that did not specifically call for Israel by name to accede to the NPT. In contrast, other states from the region had predictably stronger words, for example, calling on its "intransigence and reluctance, against the will of the international community, to accede to the NPT" (Jordan statement on regional issues, 15 April, 2002). The UK also noted that it reiterated this call

to Israel, "most recently in Jerusalem last June and in London last month" (UK, 15 April 2002).

In addition, France and US referred to Iraq and its NPT obligations. France merely stated that it supported the efforts of the IAEA to ensure that Iraq respects its obligations to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council", while the United States outright chastised Iraq for its violations of Article II and III of the NPT, outlining Iraqi's bad behavior at length. UK also spoke extensively on "Iraq's longstanding failure to comply with its UN disarmament and monitoring obligations and failure to co-operate with UNMOVIC and IAEA inspectors". The UK statement quoted its Prime Minister, that to "allow WMD to be developed by a state like Iraq without let or hinderance would be grossly to ignore the lessons of 11 September and we will not do it".

All in all, the discussion on the Middle East, as far as the NGOs could determine from our position outside of Conference Room 4, seemed to be the usual rhetoric. Perhaps, with Colin Powell's current visit to the Middle East, states may have been careful not to stir the waters too much, with the hopes that perhaps some political process to resolve this difficult and longstanding conflict can get underway.

**Emily Schroeder,
Reaching Critical Will
Women's International League for Peace
and Freedom (WILPF)**

News In Review is funded by Ploughshares Fund, The Ford Foundation & others

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Who's Who - Diplomat Profile

H.E. Mr. Henrik Salander

Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva and Chair of the 2002 NPT PrepCom

1. What are your hopes or expectations for the 2002 Nuclear Non-Proliferation 2002?

My hopes and expectations are to start the review process leading up to 2005 constructively, and to pass a meaningful summary of the PrepComm's considerations on to the second session in 2003.

2. What topics do you work on most or find the most interesting in this forum?

As Chair, I cannot be picky! I have to work on most of the things that come up.

3. What led you to be doing the work that you are doing now?

Well, after having worked in music and journalism, I suddenly became a diplomat at 30. Except for a couple of years in private industry, I have stayed in the Service. I like it. And I like disarmament the most, of all the topics I have worked on!

(Note from the editor: Ambassador Salander is admirable in his modesty, but "having worked in music" refers to his eight #1 hit songs in Sweden with his band The Hounds!!)

Fact File: Nuclear Testing Between 1945-1996:

US: 1030 tests total
215 atmospheric tests
815 underground tests

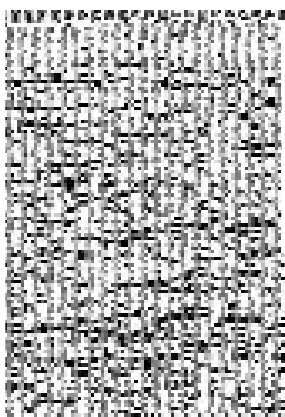
Soviet Union: 715 tests total
219 atmospheric tests
496 underground tests

France: 210 tests total
50 atmospheric tests
160 underground tests

UK: 45 tests total
21 atmospheric tests
24 underground tests

China: 45 tests total
23 atmospheric tests
22 underground tests

<http://www.nrdc.org/nuclear>



**"Sunflowers instead of
missiles in the soil would
ensure peace for future
generations"**

Sunflowers have been adopted
by the anti-nuclear community
around the world to symbolize
hope and peace.

Quote of the Day

**Ambassador Boucherl, of
UK:**

..."to allow WMD to be
developed by a state like
Iraq without let or
hinderance would be
grossly to ignore the
lessons of 11 September
and we will not do it".
(15 April 2002)

Youth Speak at United Nations about Nuclear Danger

"As a New Yorker, I felt confusion, fear and sadness on September 11," says Dania Diaz, a junior at Landmark High School in Manhattan. "But just think if this had been a nuclear explosion or an attack on a nuclear power plant. The destruction and suffering would have been unimaginable."

Dania Diaz is one of 10 high school students who will speak about their concerns regarding nuclear weapons and nuclear power at the first-ever YOUTH CAUCUS to be held during the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) process, in Conference Room 4 of the United Nations from 1:15 pm to 3:00 pm on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17. Hundreds of New York City high school students are expected to be in attendance. Following the YOUTH CAUCUS there will be a PRESS CONFERENCE at the UN Correspondents Association (UNCA) Club from 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm, located on the 3rd Floor of the Secretariat Building at 44th and 1st Avenue. Students will be available for interviews following the briefing.

The YOUTH CAUCUS and PRESS CONFERENCE take place during the two week nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee, in preparation for the 2005 NPT Review Conference. At the 2000 NPT Review Conference, states parties agreed to a 13 step action plan toward "complete disarmament under strict international control."

Since then, no measurable progress has been made. Instead, nuclear dangers have grown much greater following September 11 and the Bush Administration's recent threat to use so-called "low-yield" nuclear weapons against Iran, Iraq, Russia, China, Syria, Libya and North Korea.

In today's political climate, young people have agreed to a 13 step action plan toward valid concerns about their future, and perhaps especially New York City youth who have had, in the words of Jonathan Schell, a "taste of annihilation."

Miranda Nelson, a junior at Hunter College High School in Manhattan argues that, "Non-proliferation should include an end to nuclear reactors, as well as nuclear weapons. Because the only thing that can keep us safe from the dangers of plutonium would be to stop creating it." Wilma Gonzalez, a sophomore at FLAGS High School in the Bronx, says: "Growing up in an age of technology, new improvements seem as though they may be a huge asset to our world, but in the case of nuclear weapons, this is a façade."

The Youth Caucus is being organized by Educators for Social Responsibility Metropolitan Area's Nuclear Weapons Education and Action Project. ESR Metro works in public schools and community organizations throughout New York City to help teachers, students, parents, and youth activists learn to solve conflicts nonviolently, challenge bias, communicate better, think critically, and work together to build a more just, peaceful and democratic society.

For information about ESR Metro's Nuclear Weapons and Action Project contact Kathleen Sullivan on 212 870 3318 x 14335#, or via email ksullivan@esrmetro.org.

"We have guided
missiles
and misguided men."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

What's On: WEEK TWO

* **NOTE CHANGE- Daily:** Abolition 2000 Morning Caucus, 9am , Monday-Friday, Conf Room D, United Nations.

Tuesday, April 16th, 2002

* Presentation of the Alan Cranston Peace Award, 1:25-2:45pm. UN Conference Room 4/ Award presented to UN Under-Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs, by Jane Goodall. Facilitated by the Global Security Institute.

Wednesday, April 17th, 2002

* Youth Caucus". 1:15-2:45pm, UN Conference Room 4. A panel of young people will speak about the dangers of nuclear power, nuclear terrorism, and pose question to NWS delegates about their apparent failure to work towards nuclear disarmament. Facilitated by: Educators for Social Responsibility.

* "The Threat of Nuclear Terrorism". The possibilities and impact of nuclear terrorism, including attacks on power plants and 'dirty bombs', and approaches for security and prevention". 6:30pm- 8pm, 777 UN Plaza, 12th Floor. Facilitated by Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) and International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW).

Thursday, April 18th, 2002

* "Counter-proliferation, New Nuclear Weapons, and Counter-strategies", 1:15pm-2:45pm. Panel discussion on new nuclear weapons, counter-proliferation, US nuclear doctrine, and alternative approaches to security. Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) and International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). UN Conference Room 4.

Please check venue and times against daily schedule as these may change

