



# News In Review

A collection of NGO views on the NPT Review 2000

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## High Noon at the NPT Corral

As line by line negotiations continued in Main Committee 1, a lively Round Table discussion between NGOs and the governments from the Netherlands, Australia, Russia, the UK, Japan, Canada, Malaysia and Morocco was held last night. A big thanks goes to those governments that made time and delegates available for this exchange of views.

Chris Westdal of Canada, Chair of Subsidiary Body II on regional issues and the resolution on the Middle East said that delegations had been working day and night to achieve final texts by the Thursday afternoon deadline set by Ambassador Baali. Although it has taken time for the sub-assemblies to gear up, the assembly line procedure would probably be met, he said.

On the question of the envoy proposed by some delegations on the Middle East, support seems to exist for a mechanism on the question of universality that would address all four that currently stand outside the treaty.

Indiciating that it was too early to call the conference a failure, the Japanese delegate, Mr. Yamaguchi admitted that the guarded optimism is now quickly turning to a pre-ordained disappointment as we enter the time for the critical compromises to be made, what Les Luck of Australia called the "gritty phase". Yet both predicted a reasonable outcome that all could sign up to.

Questioning the logic of waiting until the two larger weapon states got down to lower numbers, NGOs encouraged the UK to consider the moral, legal and political pressure available in turning away from nuclear weapons. Strict vegetarians even offered to buy British beef if the UK followed South Africa and others in dismantling their stockpiles! NGOs also welcomed the UK paper on verification and agreed with Mr. John Tucknott that it is not too early to start thinking about verification of nuclear disarmament.

Of particular concern to NGOs was the Strengthened Review Process. Pleased that current arrangements for NGOs might be made permanent, a letter from NGOs to Ambassador Baali will join the letter from the Netherlands, Australia, Canada and Norway on making this Review Process stronger and more focused.

All praised the hard work of Chairman of Subsidiary Body 1, Clive Pearson of New Zealand in finding the scope and content for the forward looking action plan for the next five years. The nuclear weapon states are on notice that commitment to the total elimination of their stockpiles and accelerated action is expected by the world community.

NGOs and governmental delegations alike are tired and worn down. Vitamins and plenty of sleep are necessary as we test the strength of this vital treaty.

**Felicity Hill  
WILPF**

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*All articles contained in News In Review are the sole responsibility of the author or organisation submitting the pieces. 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.*

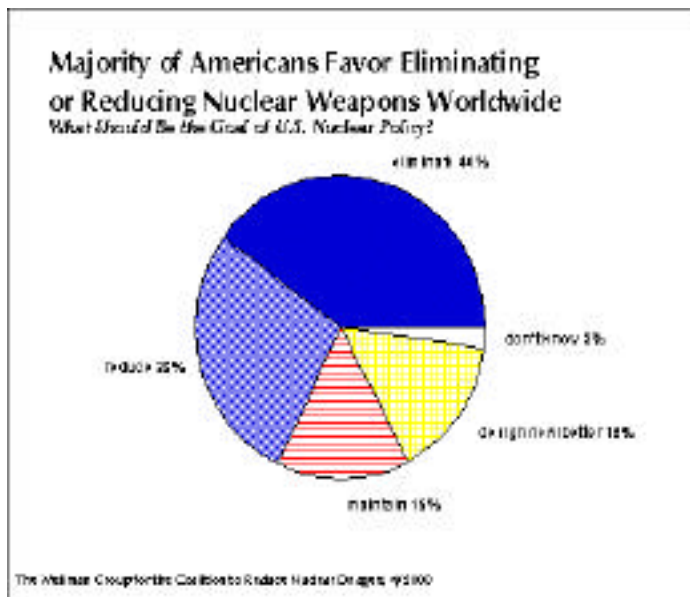
## "New Survey Shows Americans Back Deeper Nuclear Cuts, Oppose Deployment of National Missile Defense"

ON THE EVE of the first summit between Presidents Clinton and Putin, new national public opinion surveys indicate that the Clinton Administration would have the strong backing of the public for deeper nuclear arms reductions and a decision not to deploy the proposed, "limited" national missile defense. Following Russia's ratification of the second Strategic Nuclear Arms Reduction Treaty (START II), the United States and Russia have intensified discussions on START III and talks on possible modifications to the ABM Treaty to allow deployment of a costly and controversial national ballistic missile defense system, which Russia has said it opposes.

The most recent opinion survey shows that nearly seven out of every ten Americans believe that "reduction" or "elimination" of nuclear weapons worldwide should be the goal of U.S. nuclear policy." A plurality (40%) feel that the elimination of all nuclear weapons should be our primary goal, while another 28% believe that the country's aim should be reducing the number of nuclear weapons in the world to lower levels. Only 15% believe that we "should maintain the current number of nuclear weapons" and only 15% believe we "should design new and better nuclear weapons" for the United States. The results are similar to previous national opinion surveys conducted in 1997 and 1999.

Support for the elimination and reduction of nuclear weapons cuts across gender lines, with 67% of men in favor of elimination (38%) or reduction (29%) and 68% of women in favor of elimination (41%) or reduction (27%). These goals are also supported by Americans from every region of the country.

The April 2000 survey was conducted by The Mellman Group for the Coalition to Reduce Nuclear Dangers, the Council for a Livable World Education Fund, and the Fourth Freedom Forum. The survey of 1000 adults was conducted between April 7 and April 9, 2000. The statistical margin of error for the sample as a whole is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points. The margin of error for subgroups is larger.



## Americans Do Not Favor a Decision to Deploy NMD

Both the Clinton Administration and Russian officials have repeatedly stated that the ABM Treaty remains the "cornerstone of strategic stability." But the Clinton Administration is proposing changes to the ABM Treaty that would allow for a "limited" national missile defense. Russian officials have made clear that maintaining the ABM Treaty is essential to the START process, and have adamantly opposed changing it. President Clinton is scheduled to decide whether to deploy the system and possibly violate the ABM Treaty by the end of this year.

In another April 2000 survey question by The Mellman Group, a majority of Americans support waiting to decide on deployment of national missile defenses until after the 19 tests are completed. After hearing arguments both for and against deploying a national missile defense system this year, 59% favor waiting until testing is complete while only 20% favor deciding this year. Only one-in-five are undecided (21%). Large majorities of both men (59%-21%) and women (58%-20%) favor waiting until testing is complete before a deployment decision is made.

A growing number of defense experts and U.S. allies are recommending that President Clinton should not decide to deploy a national missile defense. They cite the fact that the proposed 3-phase system is technologically unproven and will not work against simple countermeasures. The cost is estimated to be \$50-\$60 billion and rising. Deployment will only lead Russia and China to strengthen their strategic nuclear forces, increasing, not decreasing the missile threat.

**COALITION TO REDUCE NUCLEAR DANGERS**  
**ISSUE BRIEF VOL. 4, NO. 5 , May 9, 2000**

this poll and others are available on the website:  
[www.clw.org/coalition](http://www.clw.org/coalition)

## William Peden Greenpeace International

### 1. What are your hopes or expectations for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation 2000 Review Conference?

What I hope (and dream) will arise out of this Review Conference is a much needed laxative for the bunged up international nuclear disarmament process. This would take the form of a strengthened Review Process with greater accountability by all States Parties, particularly the Nuclear Weapons States, to the Review Conference on how they have lived up to all their NPT obligations. This would be coupled with an action plan for the next five years on how we reduce the importance with which some states still view their nuclear arsenals, how we drastically reduce the 35,000 plus nuclear weapons that remain in the world. However, I have been too long in this game and I know that this is unlikely to happen. After two and a half weeks here the best I can hope for is an agreed text that is wishy-washy, but allows the NPT regime to limp along for the next five years in the hope that in 2005 the world environment is more conducive towards NPT Member States rolling up their sleeves, sitting down together and sorting out how they will bring about a world free of nuclear weapons without the political and ideological baggage that dogs the NPT Review Process.

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

Nuclear disarmament, it is in my blood. I live and breathe the subject. And I like the opportunity to sit down with delegates at the CD and the NPT and discuss ideas on how we can strengthen the NPT regime and, one day, achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. NGO participation in the NPT is what I love and I hope it will increase in future years.

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

Sadly, I am a lifer who for the last seventeen years has been working to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons. It all started in the early eighties when I was on my way to my first job interview. I had to cross George Square in Glasgow where a CND demonstration was going on. I never made it to that interview. I went to live at Faslane Peace Camp shortly after to directly protest against the construction of the British Trident submarine base there. The rest is history. If that demonstration had not been happening I would not be sitting in the Vienna Cafe writing this. I would be a career accountant with a mortgage, kids and a nice car, getting at least ten hours of sleep a night.

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## Nuclear Weapons Lab under Fire?

### President Clinton Declares Area a Major Disaster

Last night ABC News announced that the 4,000-acre blaze had forced the evacuation of the entire town of Los Alamos, N.M. after the fire had moved in on residents' homes. President Clinton had declared the area a major disaster.

Hours after all 11,500 residents were evacuated, a massive fire took over the city, burning at least 25 percent of the homes. High winds and a lack of water have made fighting the blaze close to impossible, forcing firefighters to abandon entire neighborhoods to the flames.

The fire was set deliberately by the U.S. National Park Service as a controlled burn to clear brush, but they lost control as nature took over, sending high winds to fan the flames.

Los Alamos, built in 1945 to house the scientists and support staff working on the Manhattan Project, is home today to a weapons research and testing facility. A weapons research building briefly caught fire, sustaining minor damage, a spokesman for the laboratory said.

Embers fell on the grounds of the lab, but officials there say they were quickly extinguished. Lab spokesman Jim Danneskiold said the property around the lab closest to the fire was cleared of underbrush after a 1996 blaze, and that the materials and materiel stored there are well-protected from the flames.

"The fire is miles from any buildings containing any nuclear materials and those buildings are rated to survive severe fires, 747 crashes, those kinds of things. They're bunkers, basically," Danneskiold said. "Of all the things that could threaten the nuclear material, a forest fire is very low on the list of threats," said Chris Judson of the National Park Service, part of a joint fire information center.



The US Department of Energy has been proposing controlled burns around some of the sites of the nuclear weapons complex. This plan of action has been met by public protest and one such proposed burn around the Rocky Flats former plutonium pit manufacture facility near Denver, Colorado has been postponed due to public opposition.  
for more info: [www.pacifica.org](http://www.pacifica.org)

# Globalisation - the Nuclear Context

## Nuclear Weapons and Globalization

The creation of a single global economy through globalization is undermining international peace and security. The loss of national sovereignty, increased financial instability, the rise of transnational corporations, and the increasing power imbalance in favour of the United States and its Western allies are promoting nuclear proliferation and derailing nuclear disarmament.

The global economy is limiting the influence of the nation-state, while transferring power to corporations, financial markets, and multilateral organizations such as the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund, all of which are incapable of promoting diplomacy and international peace and security.

Nations whose economy and sovereignty are weakened by globalization will make great efforts to maintain or regain security and economic development through military spending. Military build-ups could result in regional arms races, or as in the case of India, end in nations "going nuclear."

Meanwhile, industrialized countries maintain their technological advantage and high-tech industries through military spending. Domestic weapons corporations aggressively promote the maintenance of existing nuclear war-fighting capability and the development of new nuclear weapons systems to keep lucrative military contracts flowing, regardless of the effect of these weapons on international peace and security.

## Weapons Corporations

The world's largest aerospace and defence corporations build weapons and weapons systems necessary to wage nuclear war. These corporations include Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon, General Dynamics, United Technologies, TRW, and others.

The latest round of corporate mergers has concentrated the entire industry into a handful of corporations which use their influence to lobby for the upgrading and development of new nuclear weapons systems. The top four corporations spent more than \$34 million on political lobbying and an astonishing \$6.9 million in campaign contributions in 1997 and 1998.(1)

The United States continues to spend \$34 billion annually to maintain and upgrade Cold War-era nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, providing billions of dollars in contracts to weapons corporations.(2)

\* Northrop Grumman has built 21 B-2 Stealth Bombers, which cost \$2.2 billion each. The U.S. government is spending \$145 million to keep the production line open for more planes.

\* Lockheed Martin was recently awarded a \$589 million contract for twelve more D5 nuclear missiles for Trident submarines. The government has already bought 372 D5s at a cost of nearly \$60 million each.

\* Congress approved \$2.2 billion for 2001 in additional military spending to buy 100 interceptor missiles from Boeing and Raytheon for the National Missile Defense program.

## National Missile Defense

The National Missile Defense program promises to defend countries from nuclear attacks, but instead could restart a nuclear arms race. This dubious program is being aggressively promoted by weapons corporations which stand to profit from \$13 billion in contracts if even a modest system is built.

But the National Missile Defense program has already cost the world an opportunity for nuclear disarmament. In January 2000, Russia offered to reduce its nuclear stockpile by 1,500 deployed nuclear weapons if the United States dropped its NMD program. But the US refused, and demanded that Russia allow changes to the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty to permit the United States to construct a national missile defense system.(3)

## NATO Expansion

The expansion of NATO in 1999 was a vital step in the West's economic integration of the former Warsaw Pact countries of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. With NATO in place, investors and corporations are confident that their investments in Eastern Europe are secure from invaders.

But the expansion of NATO has strengthened Russian hard-liners, resulting in faint hope of Russia signing START II, and now its armed forces have adopted a more aggressive nuclear posture to counter the threat from a nuclear-armed and expanding NATO.

## Nuclear Proliferation

India's nuclear tests in May 1998 were more a response to the Asian financial crisis than any immediate military threat from Pakistan or China. The humiliation of Thailand, South Korea, and Indonesia by the IMF and foreign investors strengthened nationalism and anti-western sentiment in India, moving the country toward militarism and building public support for "going nuclear."

Nuclear weapons are the currency of power in today's world, and India refused to be made subservient to foreign corporate interests. When it was announced that the nuclear tests were successful, television broadcast showed Indian people pouring cans of Coca-Cola in the gutter in defiance of Western corporations and globalization.

Steven Staples

## International Network on Disarmament and Globalization

(1) William D. Hartung and Michelle Ciarrocca, "Who is Driving the Missile Defense Revival?," The Boston Globe 27 January 2000.

(2) Stephen I. Schwartz, "Maintaining our nuclear arsenal is expensive," The Washington Times 26 March 1997.

(3) Pierre Simonitsch, "Moscow says it will disarm," Frankfurter Rundschau, 27 January 2000.

# Nuclear Weapons in China

Chinese research in nuclear science and technology dates from 1949, when the Chinese Academy of Sciences established the Institute of Modern Physics under the direction of physicist Qian Sanqiang, who went on to lead China's nuclear weapons development.

Shortly after the Communist Party of China came to power in 1949, the new government gave Qian foreign currency with which to buy China's first nuclear instruments when he attended a peace conference in Europe. According to Lewis and Xue (1988), Nobel laureates Frédéric and Irène Joliot-Curie, with whom Qian had studied in wartime Paris, helped arrange the purchases in England and France. It is not clear if he bought the instruments with the intention of developing nuclear weapons, a civilian nuclear power program, or both. However, Lewis and Xue say that when the Joliot-Curies gave a Chinese radiochemist 10 grams of radium salts, they accompanied it with a message to Mao Zedong: "Please tell Chairman Mao Zedong ... you should own the atomic bomb. The atomic bomb is not so terrifying."

By the mid-1950s, China's Institute of Atomic Energy, set up in 1950 and headed by Qian, had developed a heavy-water nuclear reactor. The first experimental reactor was constructed in Beijing, and a gaseous diffusion uranium enrichment plant was built in Lanzhou.

On 15 January 1955, the Chinese government formally decided to make nuclear weapons and enlist the assistance of the Soviet Union. Full-fledged development of nuclear weapons began, with the Soviet Union agreeing to help China locate uranium reserves if China would sell it uranium. China established a Bureau of Uranium Geology in 1955. In 1956, it created a Second Ministry of Machine Building, later renamed the Ministry of the Nuclear Industry and now known as the Ministry of Energy. In August 1956, the Soviet government

agreed to help build China's nuclear industries and research facilities.

China made nuclear components for its first atomic bomb at the Jiuquan Complex in April 1964. Preparations continued over the next several months until 16 October, when China exploded an atomic bomb in the Xinjiang desert 150 kilometers northwest of the Lop Nor marshes, near the Huangyanggou oasis. The 20-kiloton bomb used the implosion fueled by enriched uranium.

After the success of its enrichment effort, China returned to its efforts on plutonium, completing a production reactor and a reprocessing plant at Jiuquan in 1967 and 1970, respectively. The plutonium reactors at Jiuquan and Guangyuan are China's principal plutonium sources for nuclear weapons.

Estimates of the size of China's nuclear arsenal vary. The Washington Center for Defense Information puts the nuclear stockpile at about 500 nuclear warheads, with a total "explosive force equal to 50,000 Hiroshima bombs" which amounts to 750 megatons of TNT. One estimate puts the number at about 1,245 fission and fusion weapons, ranging from 2 kilotons to 5 megatons, based on estimates of China's production of nuclear weapons materials and its organization of forces for waging battle. Researchers Norris and Arkin estimate 450 nuclear warheads, while Shen states that China has 276 to 398 warheads, with a total force of 400 to 500 megatons.

Since China began its nuclear weapons program, it has produced an estimated 23.5 metric tons of weapons-grade uranium-235 and plutonium-239. Albright, Berkhout, and Walker (1993) give a range of 1 to 4 metric tons for the Chinese inventory of weapons grade plutonium.

**excerpts from *Nuclear Wastelands: A Global Guide to Nuclear Weapons Production and Its Health and Environmental Effects***

**Arjun Makhijani et al (eds.)**

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## NGO Recommendations

*At the NGO Presentations of 3 May 2000, there were a series of excellent recommendations made by the speakers on behalf of the NGO community. We are featuring these recommendations each day this week.*

### **Nuclear Weapons Research, Development, Testing, and Production**

Our recommendations to this NPT Review Conference are as follows:

1. An immediate unequivocal commitment to end the qualitative improvement of nuclear arms — a commitment that no state will design, develop, produce, or deploy new, modified, or repackaged nuclear weapons in any way that endows any weapon with improved military characteristics.
2. An immediate moratorium on all activities related to the National Ignition Facility and the French Megajoule laser due to their presumptive illegality under the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Further, there should be an independent international investigation of all Inertial Confinement Fusion research activities for:
  - a. Their compliance or non-compliance with the CTBT; and
  - b. Their proliferation potential.
3. An immediate halt to all underground subcritical experiments. Further, the two remaining active nuclear test sites, Nevada in the U.S. and Novaya Zemelya in Russia, should be closed and decommissioned.
4. An immediate halt to all programs of above-ground subcritical tests involving fissile material now taking place at the weapons laboratories of at least some, if not all, of the nuclear weapon states.

**William Peden  
Greenpeace International**



# "Patience is wearing thin" warns Ambassador

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Ambassador Hasmy Agam of Malaysia outlined a series of initiatives presented in a working paper to the NPT Review Conference at a news conference held by WILPF yesterday.

Ambassador Hasmy told the news conference that the unanimous World Court call to conclude nuclear disarmament "has the force of customary law." He warned nuclear weapons states not to continue to try to "ignore it or dismiss it as a mere opinion or as simply opinion or as simply irrelevant ... it has both moral and legal force."

Ambassador Hasmy underscored "the uphill battle" in trying to get the nuclear weapon states to comply with NPT agreements on disarmament and condemned what he called the "intransigence of the nuclear weapon states" in regard to the World Court Opinion and "to disarmament in general."

The Ambassador added that "[t]he overwhelming majority of nations" supported the World Court calls for disarmament and that "patience is wearing thin" over continuing delays by the nuclear weapon states in honoring their commitments.

He reminded the news conference that Malaysia had always regarded the 1995 decision to extend the NPT indefinitely as "a tactical mistake in which leverage over the nuclear weapon states was lost."

If at the end of the NPT Review there emerges no consensus Ambassador Hasmy warned that Malaysia would call for a vote on its working paper.

Kevin Sanders

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## The legacies of nuclear testing in the Pacific

From the very beginning of the nuclear age, the peoples of the Pacific have borne the brunt of the testing of nuclear weapons. From 1946, the United States conducted 67 atomic and hydrogen bomb tests at Bikini and Enewetak atolls in the Marshall Islands, with 25 further tests at Christmas Island and nine more at Johnston Atoll. Britain tested nuclear weapons in the 1950s, with 13 tests at Maralinga, Monte Bello and Emu Field in Australia, and nine tests at Christmas Island and Malden Island in the central Pacific. For over thirty years, from 1966 to 1996, France conducted 193 atmospheric and underground tests at Moruroa and Fangataufa atolls in French Polynesia.

The deserts, atolls and oceans of our region were chosen because they seemed to be vast empty spaces. But the nuclear powers showed little concern for the health and well-being of nearby island communities, and those civilian and military personnel who staffed the test sites.

In the Pacific, the nuclear era has threatened the land, waters and culture of the Pacific. The pollution of our waters, the ocean that unites us, has long been of concern. Pacific churches spoke out against nuclear testing from the earliest days. Many churches are concerned with the morality of nuclear weapons and the threat of mass destruction.

Although nuclear testing in the Pacific has ended, there are still other nuclear threats to the region (such as the shipment of plutonium and high level nuclear wastes across the ocean; proposals to dump nuclear waste on isolated atolls, and uranium mining on indigenous peoples' land in Australia, Canada and the US). Most importantly, there remains a responsibility of the nuclear powers for the health and environmental impacts of past nuclear testing, even after the end of most nuclear testing.

**From the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre  
Briefing Paper - March 2000**

*"The Pacific Concerns Resource Centre (PCRC) Briefing Paper – the legacies of nuclear testing in the Pacific"* outlines the results of studies done on Moruroa, Fangataufa, the Marshall Islands, and the Christmas Islands, as well as giving excellent background information on a number of nuclear issues and further actions required for the Pacific. The briefing paper is available on the PCRC website: [www.pcrc.org.fj](http://www.pcrc.org.fj)

## What's On

**11 May 2000**

### Main Committee 1:

Sessions begin @ 10am  
Conference Room 4

### Main Committee 2:

Subsidiary Body 2  
Sessions begin @ 3pm  
&

Main Committee 2  
Sessions begin @ 4pm  
General Assembly Hall

### Main Committee 3:

Sessions begin @ 3pm  
Conference Room 4

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

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