



News In Review

A collection of NGO views on the NPT Review 2000

1 May 2000 - No. 5



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One week down, three to go

As Friday was an informal holiday at the UN, the NPT discussions closed on Thursday afternoon after another day of general debate and a meeting of Main Committee 1. General debate statements were heard from Luxembourg, South Korea, Myanmar (Burma), Syria, Maldives, Poland, Venezuela, Kuwait, Norway, Mongolia, Turkey, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Indonesia, Qatar, Azerbaijan, Yemen, Argentina, Austria, Holy See, Slovakia, Belarus, Thailand, Tunisia, Vietnam, the Group of South Pacific Countries, Swaziland, Lebanon, Uzbekistan, Bulgaria, Namibia, Zambia, Tanzania, Bolivia and Ghana. For copies of these statements www.basicint.org, for analysis www.acronym.org.uk

Main Committee 1

Following Clive Pearson of New Zealand, who took the floor to indicate that discussion in the Subsidiary Body on Nuclear Disarmament would be on the basis of proposals, Ambassador Grey delivered the US statement, which was distributed with their latest glossy pamphlet. The US was followed by Australia, Korea, Argentina, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Speaking directly to the criticism heard on NATO nuclear sharing, the US stated, "The United States maintains constant and complete custody and control of its nuclear weapons." On Article VI, Ambassador Grey announced, "The U.S. will continue to pursue doggedly nuclear disarmament measures on a daily basis, not just every five years." Clarification has been sought on the term "doggedly" and we are happy to provide it from the Webster's Dictionary: Dogged - not giving in

readily; persistent, stubborn.

NGOs are the first to acknowledge, praise, celebrate and appreciate the reductions in numbers of nuclear weapons held by the USA, down from 29,100 in 1974 to 10,500 today. Much of the US speech on Thursday was a useful recap of the initiatives we are all very familiar with by now. However, we will doggedly assert that the policy, modernisation, financial commitment and laboratory testing of the US, forces us to acknowledge the sad fact that elements of the US Defence and Energy departments are not giving in to Article VI commitments readily, are in fact persistently and stubbornly holding on to Cold War logic, policy and financial arrangements with military corporations.

Ambassador Grey ended his speech with insults. After quoting Teddy Roosevelt's definition of an idealist as a "worthless head-in-the-air creature, a nuisance to himself and everybody else", Ambassador Grey noted there were many idealists in Main Committee 1. So partners and allies like Ireland and Sweden are worthless? South Africa has its head in the air? Brazil is a nuisance? Many NGOs feel this kind of mud-slinging between states is inexcusable yet can't help but agree with Teddy Roosevelt. Indeed it is a "mean, base and sordid creature" that invents and perfects a tool of genocide, suicide and ecocide - truly a creature that has no ideal other than destruction, domination and exploitation.

Keep a look out for the detailed analysis and Counterfact sheet being prepared by US based NGOs on the claims made by their government.

Australia followed up the US call for realism and

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acknowledged the significant progress already made but added "we hope for, and expect, further action towards the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons." The delegation of NGOs from Australia in New York look to their government to send clear messages such as this to its nuclear ally. Other positive input from Australia on information sharing to reduce inadvertent or accidental nuclear strike was appreciated but NGOs were disappointed by the conclusion that Australia "do[es] not share the view that there are easier or better ways to achieve the goal of ultimate disarmament." There is, in fact, significant support for further and faster progress in Australia as witnessed in regular motions through the federal senate on the New Agenda Coalition resolution each year. As will be remembered when the French government tested nuclear weapons in the Pacific in 1995, and by initiatives such as the Canberra Commission, Australia has a population particularly concerned about nuclear weapons, with 92% of Australians polled wanting a Nuclear Weapons Convention. Australia concluded its remarks which covered South Asia, Security Assurances, the Fissile Material Treaty, by noting that the NPT is not a two-way, but a three-way bargain, a vehicle for non-nuclear weapons states to assure each other that they are not engaging in nuclear weapons programmes.


Korea addressed the issue of universality strongly, outlining four steps the Review Conference should take to address the four countries remaining outside the treaty: accede to the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state asap; do not transfer materials, equipment or technology to other states; put facilities under safeguards; make it clear that no special status, de jure or de facto, will be recognized for those countries. Korea also stated that due to legitimate concerns, "It is time for nuclear-weapon states to redouble their efforts for nuclear disarmament in response to the call from the international community." After stressing the need for the CTBT to enter into force and calling on the NWS to maintain their moratoria, Korea said that the "CD should come up with more creative ways to ensure continuity in our negotiations, instead of drawing up programs of work for ongoing negotiations every year." NGOs feel strongly that the CD is a valuable forum but that it is procedurally and structurally flawed. Constructive criticism and directives to the deadlocked CD should continue in the more democratic representation of states in the NPT.

Malaysia (no written text distributed) spoke directly to the fears that the US National Missile Defence proposal may trigger a new arms race into outerspace. Malaysia

also urged NPT states to not consider the tests in South Asia as a regional issue, but rather, one that should be responded to by the international community. The overt proliferation in South Asia should be a wake up call to which the Nuclear Weapon States should respond appropriately. Malaysia went on to admit that the reality of nuclear disarmament is a pipe dream at this time, but that the demands of the non-nuclear weapon states were not unrealistic, especially if the nuclear weapon states continue to persist in their commitment to nuclear weapons.

Chairman Ambassador Reyes of Colombia then opened the floor for discussion on Articles 1 & 2, paragraphs 1-3 of the preamble and Item 17 on the Review Conference Agenda. Indonesia responded on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement, reading directly from the working paper submitted by the NAM and available at www.basicint.org.

Felicity Hill
Director UN Office
WILPF



Jane Addams
 - founder of WILPF

"After all, we are the inheritors of that first Congress of Women at the Hague in 1915, when women from countries whose men were slaying each other on bloody battlefields embraced and pledged to work together to end war."

Kay Camp
 speaking of WILPF on the 85th Anniversary - see page 6

Who's Who - NGO profile

M. V. Ramana

**Center for Energy and Environmental Studies, Princeton University
Research Associate**

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

I would like to see the nuclear weapon states provide clearer commitments and undertake concrete steps towards nuclear disarmament as part of the Article VI commitments. I would like to see more progress towards the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones in the Middle East and in South Asia. At least in the case of South Asia, this is not likely to happen before the establishment of a clear road map to a nuclear free world. This is perhaps the most important task at the NPT RevCon.

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

As far as this forum is concerned, I work mostly on ways of accelerating the abolition of nuclear weapons. Most of the time this takes the form of criticizing current postures and policies. I also do technical studies of various issues, artifacts and processes associated with nuclear weapons (and nuclear energy). A large part of my work is focused on facilities and events in India.

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

I obtained my Ph.D. in Physics. As a scientist, I was interested in the ways science influences and is influenced by society at large. Nuclear weapons are among the most devastating and the most dramatic of such influences and impacts. The history of the nuclear arms race over the past half-century bears testimony to the pressure from scientists to build the bomb and the authority they wielded. But there is another possibility. Scientists have opposed these developments in the past and I would like to be part of such a movement, not just as a scientist but as a human being.

Who's Who - Diplomat Profile

Ambassador Markku Reimaa,

Permanent Representative of Finland to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva

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

A solid and substantive outcome in order to further strengthen the NPT regime.

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

As chairman of Main Committee III, the affairs of that committee, and as a member of the Bureau, an overall success for the Conference.

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

As a representative of Finland, that has supported and contributed to the NPT since the early days, I want to do my share in support of the NPT and nuclear disarmament.

Nuclear Truth Commissions: Bridging communications between the present and future

When a vast, stifling denial in the public realm is felt by every individual yet there is no language, no depiction, of what is being denied, it becomes for each his or her own anxious predicament, a daily struggle to act "as if" everything were normal. . . . The danger lies in forgetting what we had (Adrienne Rich, 1993).

Today, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and Project EDNA (engaged Democracy for the Nuclear Age) are hosting a nuclear truth commission from 1 until 4pm on the 2nd floor at 777 UN Plaza. Our aim is to further the disclosure of information and knowledge about the nuclear issue by creating a forum for former military personnel, members of the scientific community, representatives from the nuclear industry, indigenous peoples and members of the general public to listen to each other's 'nuclear stories'. Listening to and telling stories is a means to affirm and bring into the public realm each individual's experience, and hopefully empower people to work towards the abolition of nuclear weapons and the safe containment of radioactive materials.

Unlike other truth commissions which involve a panel of judges where objectives of justice and compensation may or may not be achieved, the WILPF/Project EDNA event will include a panel of 'listeners' who will hear each testimony from the vantage point of future generations. That is, not to sit in judgement from the future, but to utilize 'future listening' as a means to come to terms with the fact that, *those who come after us will inherit a radioactive legacy*.

Inspired by the South African model for truth and reconciliation, the establishment of nuclear truth commissions aims to encourage ordinary people to share their stories in an open public forum. People who have lived in close proximity to nuclear installations, people who have worked for the industry, decision makers at both corporate and government levels can be given a 'hearing', a unique opportunity for others to hear their stories. Once disparate accounts of the 'nuclear truth' are being aired, the stated promise of public participation in decision making about nuclear issues becomes more realistic. When ordinary citizens are given the chance to speak on the same platform as industry and government officials, the knowing public will feel more empowered to make a difference in our world.

Representatives of international, national and local nuclear establishments are keen to be seen as deft hands at openness and transparency. However, there has yet to be a public forum organised with the expressed purpose of giving a voice to those who remain silent, including, and perhaps most poignantly, the 'voice' of future generations. In the spirit of Adrienne Rich, the aim of nuclear truth commissions is to depict the unspoken and the denied that exists in the nuclear realm. To this end, such events will help raise awareness of the insidious effects of the nuclear power and weapons industry; those felt effects which

result from the 'anxious predicament' of nuclear normalcy.

A nuclear truth commission or peoples hearing during the NPT can act as a means of breaking the public silence that continues to characterize the process of nuclear decision making. Although the governments and nuclear industries of some nations are working towards more openness and transparency in decision making as regards our shared radioactive legacy, the initiation of true models for participatory democracy relating to nuclear policies has yet to occur. We need to build an alliance between the affected public and the nuclear establishment world-wide as the industry inevitably moves from production of nuclear weapons and nuclear energy to decommissioning, 'clean-up' and environmental restoration.

At the close of the twentieth century, the global community continues to live with spectre of nuclear war and the on-going risk/reality of radioactive contamination. And yet, informed public debate, on a broad international level regarding our shared radioactive legacy is not widely occurring. A truth commission for our nuclear dilemma can empower citizens who, with their localised, personal knowledge of 'nukes', can affect decision making in government and industry. This in turn will require that government, industry and regulators begin to tell their own 'nuclear narratives' — stories about what happened when and where, why and how. To truly respect radioactive materials, their unique invisible properties and time horizons, all available information, classified or otherwise, needs to be assessed.

However we weigh-in the information of the nuclear debate, and go about making 'atomic decisions', the nature of long-lived radioactive materials sets entirely new parameters. We need to respect the tremendous pressures that we are under having to make decisions today that affect future generations through geologic time. We may even consider that future generations will not care which side we were on in the nuclear debate. They may simply recognise us as the generation that produced a radioactive legacy. Thus, we are left with the unenviable task to make sure that radioactive materials are kept in safe, retrievable configurations — so that future generations can continue to take care of them.

It is true that many people want: an end to nuclear deterrence as the status quo defence policy; an end to the burial of radioactive materials; an end to the production of nuclear power; an end to the mining of uranium. But where is the beginning? It may be possible to begin by hearing the 'nuclear truth', nuclear narratives from all sides. The establishment of nuclear truth commissions, could produce hallmark events which might begin to change the way in which modern humans regard their responsibility for radioactive materials, for future generations and for the earth that we all share.

Kathleen Sullivan
Project EDNA

La Hague

French nuclear industry officials are pressing ahead with plans to expand a reprocessing plant despite fears that it is polluting the Channel Islands and threatening large swathes of the South of England. As the crisis at Sellafield deepened, operators of a similar plant at Cap de la Hague, on the northern tip of the Normandy coast, were asking for permission to reprocess even more waste from around the world. It hopes to increase the nuclear waste it can process each year from 1,600 to 2,000 tons, and to increase its storage capacity from 12,000 to 15,000 tons. Over the past three years, Sellafield has reprocessed an average of 1,200 tons a year.

Tests on samples taken from the 50 million gallons of liquid waste that pours from La Hague into the English Channel each year show that they are up to 17 times more radioactive than sea water. Some evaluations warn that the surface of the seabed around the plant is so contaminated that it should be classified as nuclear waste.

French medical surveys point to a strong link between La Hague and the higher than average levels of childhood leukaemia in the area, while another study suggests that cancer levels on Alderney, just nine miles away, are double the British average.

Computer simulations of airborne emissions indicate that radioactive clouds can reach the south coast of England, less than 80 miles away, within five days of emerging from La Hague's chimneys. According to research carried out at the University of Gent in Belgium, the clouds contain large traces of radioactive gases, including krypton-85, iodine-129 and tritium, and drift over an area stretching from Devon to Kent before thinning out as they move north.

A 14-strong delegation from Guernsey raised the islanders' concerns at a government inquiry in France last month. They were particularly alarmed by a report by Jean-Francois Viel, a French professor of epidemiology, published in the British Medical Journal, that argues that there is "convincing evidence" that children who played on beaches near La Hague were more likely to develop leukaemia.

A group of politicians from Jersey will be demanding a reduction in discharges from the plant when they appear at the inquiry tomorrow. Stuart Syvret, a senator from the States of Jersey, the island's parliament, said: "We would like to see it shut down completely."

There is widespread scepticism about the inquiry on the Channel Islands. Many islanders believe the decision to allow La Hague to expand has already been taken in Paris. The inquiry into the proposed expansion, called for by a French parliamentary social affairs committee, had its remit restricted after intense lobbying by the country's powerful nuclear industry.

Last week, the French nuclear industry watchdog, the Direction de Sûreté des Installations Nucléaires (DSIN), ordered the management at La Hague to reduce both airborne and liquid emissions. Andre Lacoste, the director of DSIN, said in his annual report: "Like any other nuclear installation, La Hague must achieve progress in terms of environmental protection."

The state-owned company that runs La Hague, Compagnie Générale de Matières Atomique, wants to expand its operations and increase the

range of waste that it is allowed to reprocess.

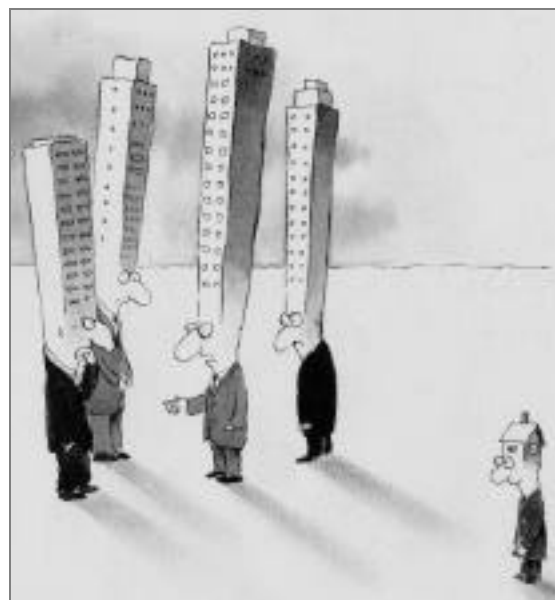
A separate, criminal investigation into La Hague has begun under a judge in Cherbourg following allegations by environmental groups that the plant had "endangered people's lives" by illegally stockpiling radioactive waste from outside France. The move astonished local people, who had come to think of La Hague and its management as being untouchable. The plant employs 5,000 people in the area and has an annual turnover of £3 billion.

La Hague insists that it meets the standards laid down by the 1996 European Directive for reducing the levels of radioactivity to which workers at the plant are exposed, and says it was forced to stockpile the foreign waste because it could not be moved until it had cooled - which takes decades.

With no oil reserves and little coal and gas, almost 75 per cent of electricity in France is generated by its nuclear industry, making the country more reliant on nuclear power than any other nation in the world.

As well as reprocessing huge amounts of spent fuel generated by its domestic industry, La Hague has contracts to reprocess spent fuel from Germany and Japan, smaller contracts with clients in Switzerland, Belgium and Holland, and has just signed a 15-year contract with an Australian plant.

**Adapted from Ian Cobain's "Atom plant in France 'threatens South of England'"
the Sunday Telegraph 2 April 2000**



Leunig cartoon from his collection "A bag of Roosters"

To ask one to speak of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom for 5 minutes is like asking the UN to ban the bomb in 3 weeks!

[In 1917, WILPF aimed] "To begin...a general and effective reduction in armaments, as a first step towards the elimination from international relations of the use and threat of force." We're still working on every one of these principles today. Would that they had then "listened to the women, -- for a change!" As WILPF has said for decades, "It will be a great day when the schools have all the money they need and the Air Force must hold a bake sale to build a bomber."

Another telling incident occurred during the Vietnam War when one of the WILPF Branches in California held its first new Board meeting - in jail! That was the most convenient place, since they were all there!

Somewhat later in Geneva, an agent for Soviet President Gorbachev came to see WILPF's Secretary General, Edith Ballantyne. Gorbachev was planning to invite NGOs and sought advice on how to conduct an effective meeting. Edith suggested asking delegates not to come with prepared speeches, but allow genuine back and forth dialogue. She made several other recommendations for democratic give-and-take. When she later attended the meeting in question, she was delighted to see that the Soviets had followed every one of her suggestions.

When the US WILPF president complained in a letter to the Chilean Ambassador to the UN about the gross violations of human rights in Pinochet's take-over, the Ambassador wrote back, saying in effect, "those reporters are just Marxists. It's not like that at all. Hardly anybody has been killed. If you were just there you could see for yourselves." The WILPF president answered immediately saying, "Thank you Sir, for your gracious invitation. We would love to come and see for ourselves." So six WILPF women went to Chile. While three went to government cocktail parties, three talked to victims in the poblaciones, wrote a factual report called, "Chile: State of War", reported to a Congressional conference, then to the UN Commission on Human Rights - with that same Chilean Ambassador sitting right across the room, unsmiling.

This organisation never feared controversy. In fact, we often embraced it, trying to bridge gaps between countries and peoples. In 1961 we initiated a series of seminars with the Soviet Women's Committee, which we attribute actually to having been helpful in ending the Cold War. We went to Iran at the height of the hostage crisis, and reported that the crisis could be ended if Iran had assurances that the US would not try another military attempt to free the hostages. We were in Iraq the week before the bombing started, and learned of the many opportunities the US had ignored to settle the situation peacefully, and pleaded with it to do so. We did the same in 1971 with the women of Vietnam, pledging to work together to end the US invasion. Our British Section has worked closely with both sides among the women of Northern Ireland. We held an early gathering of women from all the areas of the former Yugoslavia in which there was 99% agreement. And our Israeli Section members comprise Arabs as well as Jews, working together.

After all, we are the inheritors of that first Congress of Women at the Hague in 1915, when women from countries whose men were slaying each other on bloody battlefields embraced and pledged to work together to end war. Jane Addams, who may then have been the most revered woman in the USA, presided over that Congress and became WILPF's first international president after it. During the patriotic frenzy of World War 1 she was likely the most reviled

woman in the USA, then won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work with WILPF. WILPF's international secretary, Emily Green Balch, was the second US woman to become a Nobel Laureate. This gap-bridging ability also and proved useful, when the Cold War affected relations between NGOs in New York and Geneva and CONGO had the good sense to elect WILPF's Secretary General, that well-known bridge-builder, Edith Ballantyne, as Chair.

No organisation has worked longer and harder for women's rights or disarmament than WILPF. President Kennedy had the grace to admit the role of the women in his decision to end the fallout and adopt the Limited Test Ban Treaty. I wish I knew how many demonstrations at the White House I went to during those years.

Actually we've been involved in all the great movements for change of the 20th century: the peace movement, test ban, anti-nuclear, suffrage, anti-apartheid, human rights, indigenous peoples', disarmament, civil rights, feminist, anti-racist, anti-colonialist, environmentalist, -- for supporting, strengthening, democratizing and feminizing the UN. Our foremothers had the wisdom to know that states cannot simply abolish war without changing the conditions that foster war. They called for basic changes in the political, economic, social and psychological conditions that can assure peace and freedom. And here we are after 85 years, still calling all women to assert themselves to change the conditions that lead to war, violence and oppression to those that establish justice, democracy and peace!

Try to imagine how many intensive hours, days, weeks and years so many thousands of good WILPF women have spoken, written, phoned, planned, prayed, sang, sat at through meetings, stood in vigil, spent in jail, badgered officials, driven, cajoled, emailed, flown and marched for the blessings of peace! We've had numerous small victories, but the Big One eludes us still.

We are somewhat disappointed in much of the women's movement for opting to crash into the system as it is, instead of opting to change it, to humanize it. But there are signs that women on a large scale are realising that this is a very dangerous, unjust society, a violent society, and that together we could make it a lot safer, and to take action. If we could just get every woman to sign our ringing declaration, "We the women of the World", calling for implementation of the UN's first resolution to eliminate weapons of mass destruction - a good first step. We do not wish to replace men in a dominant/submissive relationship. We just want an equal share of the responsibility as well as rewards.

WILPF tries to represent what democracy should look like. We are not top-down, as our leaders will readily testify. Our program is so comprehensive because we believe that all of the major problems of the world are interconnected. Fixing the world is a Big Job.

I hope one can glean from the examples I've given that WILPF is a feisty, active, hard-working, fun-loving, non-violent, intelligent, serious, feminist, radical, daring, caring movement that is out in front of the issues, action-oriented, and committed to economic and racial justice, to a sustainable environment, to world law and disarmament. If we can stop the macho-militarists from wasting the bulk of our resources on the military - and I'm well aware that my own country is by far the worst offender in that regard - we will be well on the way to realising the vision of a bright future we want to pass on to all the children of the world. Come join with us, so together we can make this a mighty fine millennium!

Peace!!

exerpts from the speech given by Kay Camp

WILPF's 85th Anniversary Celebration at the UN
April 28, 2000 - full transcript available from WILPF

On Committee I issues, this Review Conference should:

1. Obtain a new unequivocal commitment by the Nuclear Weapon States that the elimination of nuclear weapons is their goal, with accelerated action in the next five year period toward that end detailed in the 2000 forward looking action plan.
2. Pledge support and cooperation on the International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament as proposed by the Secretary General in his report to the Millennium Assembly with a view to identifying when one or more such issues might be negotiated multilaterally.
3. Set time aside for all five Nuclear Weapon States to discuss amongst themselves on the ways and means of both reducing reliance on nuclear doctrine and policy and identify further steps they are prepared to take in the next five years. The Nuclear Weapon States should then report back to all states parties on the steps they are prepared to take in the period 2000-2005.
4. Urge the CD to establish Ad Hoc Committees on a treaty to ban the production of fissile material and another on Nuclear Disarmament to first discuss and then negotiate a Nuclear Weapons Convention, taking into consideration the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention submitted by Costa Rica to the United Nations in 1997.

5. Call on the United States of America and the Russian Federation to move swiftly towards START III, aimed at bringing their nuclear forces below 1000 each by 2007.
6. Call on all states to sign and ratify the CTBT, condemning all initiatives that violate the spirit and letter of this treaty such as nuclear testing, laboratory testing and subcritical testing.
7. Urge Nuclear Weapon States to take all nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert.
8. Affirm the positive effect of the establishment of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones freely arrived at among states,
9. Urge all states of the Middle East to, in accordance with the 1995 resolution, accede to the NPT. Urge all states to cooperate and exert efforts to support the negotiation and implementation on a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East.

On Committee II issues the Review Conference should:

1. Call on all states to sign and ratify the safeguard agreements with the IAEA, and to sign and ratify Additional Protocols thereby strengthening their safeguards agreements.
2. Recognise that the promotion of civil nuclear energy and the safeguarding of nuclear materials are contradictory tasks for the IAEA. Even with the strengthening of safeguards,

efforts can only be partial while the IAEA is condemned to political schizophrenia.

3. Urge all States to evaluate the adequacy of the current regime protecting nuclear materials. Admit there is no known solution to nuclear waste, all efforts to isolate the material permanently have failed, therefore any claim for disposal of this material is premature, and must instead be viewed as simply a posture of an industry which must continue to generate waste as a by-product their activity.
4. Affirm the right of all sovereign states to reject commercial proposals for the dumping of waste within the boundaries of their country.

On Committee III issues, this Review Conference should:

1. Recall Agenda 21 which calls on nations to find more effective systems for producing, distributing and consuming energy and for greater reliance on environmentally sound energy systems with special emphasis on renewable energy.
2. Affirm the inalienable right of all nations to have access to sustainable and renewable means of energy production.
3. Admit that science and economic realities have proven that nuclear energy is neither sustainable or renewable.

**Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom**

Remember the competitions?

When the NPT Review Conference opened last week we announced several competitions that News In Review is running throughout the conference.

We have received some great entries in several categories so far - but with three weeks still to go, we expect more from you all. Competition winners will be announced at the end of the Conference and prizes will be given if we can find the winners (so be sure to write your contact details on any entries)

Competitions:

Best acronym for the meaning of 'NPT'

Best One-Liner at the NPT

Best Circumlocution (that's a blah blah sentence)

Best nuclear rewrite or atomic adaptation of a popular song (*see News In Review from 26 April*)

Best and Worst dressed (photos happily accepted)

and now, some new categories:

Best and Worst Haircuts during the NPT

Best Reason for Optimism arising from the NPT

Best Reason for Pessimism arising from the NPT

You can enter in all categories as many times as you wish - there will be a Competition Entry Box in the Conference Room C or give entries to the Editors, Dimity Hawkins, Penelope Simons or Kathleen Sullivan.

Vox Populis

"I don't know if you noticed that obscene [U.S.] exhibit as you come into this conference room This is an 'Isn't it good about nuclear power - radiation is totally controllable - atoms for peace [display]' — Give me a break. There is a scourge of cancer ... on this planet and it has everything to do with the fact that children all over this planet are born with strontium-90 in their bones, cesium-37 in their muscle tissues and iodine-131 crawling all over their bodies We have *got* to de-nuclearise. We have *got* to disarm. Where is the United States?"

Blanch Cook

from her speech at the WILPF 85th Birthday celebrations
heard in Conference Room 4

What's On

1 May 2000

event:

"Nuclear Weapons: the Costs and Risks", a discussion involving Lloyd J. Dumas, author of *Lethal Arrogance: Human Fallibility and Dangerous Technologies*.

place & time:

UN Conference Room C @ 1 - 3pm

event:

Truth Commission for the Nuclear Age: sponsored by WILPF and Project EDNA

place & time:

777 UN Plaza, 2nd Floor @ 1 - 4pm

event:

Personal Responsibility in the Nuclear Age: Nuclear Scientists Speak Out on Science and Morality" - a reception and panel presentation

place & time:

UN Headquarters (check room number) @ 6 -9pm

Plenary Meeting:

Sessions begin @ 10am
General Assembly

Main Committee 1:

No session scheduled

Main Committee 2:

Subsidiary Body 2
Sessions begin @ 10am
Conference Room 4

Main Committee 3:

Sessions begin @ 3pm
Conference Room 4

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