



News In Review



A collection of NGO views on the NPT Review 2000

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NPT Opens - and a good START too

Diplomats and Foreign Ministers looked up to a packed public gallery in the General Assembly hall yesterday, the first day of the month-long NPT Review Conference. In addition to the opening speeches from Conference Chair Ambassador Baali, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and Director-General of the IAEA Mohamed el-Baradei, the conference adopted a decision on establishing Subsidiary Bodies. Resolving the question of Subsidiary Bodies so early in the meeting bodes well for Ambassador Baali's chairmanship and helped start the meeting on a positive note. Baali went on to swiftly gavel through procedural decisions such as appointing most of the 34 Vice Presidents and 10 Vice Chairs of the Committees and confirming Hannelore Hoppe of the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs as the Secretary General of the Conference.

As promised, Baali started the afternoon session at 3pm sharp to hear twelve speeches. Ambassador Monteiro of Portugal spoke on behalf of the European Union followed by Foreign Minister of Mexico Rosario Green on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition (NAC). Green attached to her speech the anticipated Working Document on Nuclear Disarmament endorsed by the seven NAC countries. Represented at Minister or equivalent levels, statements were made by Algeria, Ireland, South Africa, USA, Germany, China, Colombia, Japan and New Zealand. (these texts will be available at <http://www.basicint.org/>)

Ambassador Baali predicted a long, painful and particularly delicate Review Conference because of the current 'uncertain international context.' He went on to list reasons for concern which were reiterated by the bulk of today's speakers: the non adherence of Cuba, Israel, India, and Pakistan to the non-proliferation regime; the refusal of the United States Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT); the lack of progress on nuclear disarmament between the Russian Federation and the United States; the new nuclear

strategies of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Russian Federation; the challenges to the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty and the intention of the United States to deploy an anti-missile defence system; the impasse in the Conference on Disarmament; and the fact that there were 30,000 nuclear weapons in the world capable of obliterating everything that humanity has accomplished.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said that, "Much of the established multilateral disarmament machinery has started to rust - a problem due not to the machinery itself but to the apparent lack of political will to use it." The most effective way of overcoming the challenges ahead, he said, would be to embark on a results-based Treaty review process that focused on specific benchmarks. One benchmark would be the entry into force of the CTBT. Another would be the deep, irreversible reduction in stocks of nuclear weapons, wherever they might be. A third would be the consolidation of existing nuclear-weapon-free zones and negotiation of new zones. A

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NPT - NUCLEAR PARTY TIME?
Join in the celebrations with WILPF and
the Reaching Critical Will team at our
reception tonight

- refreshments provided

- photographic exhibition on display

Event begins at 6pm and ends when
disarmament or exhaustion hit - whichever
is first

2nd Floor - the Church Centre -

777 UN Plaza

all NPT delegations & NGO members welcome

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fourth would be binding security guarantees to non-nuclear-weapon States Parties. Yet another would be improvements in the transparency of nuclear weapon arsenals and nuclear materials.

The Decision on Subsidiary Bodies

The text of the decision reads as follows:

" The Conference of States parties to the NPT decides to establish for the duration of the 2000 Review Conference a subsidiary body under Main Committee I and Main Committee II, respectively. The Conference further decides that (i) The subsidiary body established under Main Committee I as subsidiary body 1 will discuss and consider the practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to implement article VI of the NPT and paragraphs 3 and 4(c) of the 1995 Decisions on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament". The subsidiary body will be chaired by Ambassador Clive Pearson of New Zealand. The subsidiary body will be open-ended. It will hold 4 meetings within the overall time allocated to the Main Committee. The meetings will be held in private. (ii) The subsidiary body established under Main Committee II as subsidiary body 2 will examine the regional issues, including with respect to the Middle East and implementation of the 1995 Middle East resolution. The subsidiary body will be open-ended. It will hold 4 meetings within the overall times allocated to the Main Committee. The meetings will be held in private. The outcome of the work of the subsidiary body will be reflected in the report of the respective Main Committees to the Conference."

The Chair for the subsidiary body of Main Committee II has yet to be chosen. Of the four meetings planned, two will be devoted to the Middle East.

The New Agenda Coalition Working Document on Nuclear Disarmament Foreign Minister Green introduced this four-page paper as " a working document with measures and steps regarding the obligation under Article VI to achieve nuclear disarmament." The text, drafted in the style of a final conference document, opens with preambular paragraphs affirming the treaty, the 1995 decisions, the legally binding nature of the NPT commitment by the nuclear-weapon states to the pursuit in good faith of nuclear disarmament and the ICJ Advisory Opinion. After listing concerns regarding stalled negotiations on arms reductions and the continued retention of the nuclear-weapon option by three states, the text goes on stress the ABM Treaty as a cornerstone of stability, stresses the need to lessen the role of nuclear weapons in security policies and affirms that "the maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world will require the underpinnings of a universal and multilaterally negotiated legally binding instrument or a framework encompassing a mutually reinforcing set of instruments."

The measures identified by the NAC for the implementation of the NPT are that:

1. the five nuclear-weapon States make an unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear

arsenals, and engage in an accelerated process of negotiation, taking steps leading to nuclear disarmament in the coming five year period;

2. the USA and the Russian Federation undertake to fully implement START II and begin negotiations on START III;

3. all five nuclear weapon-states are integrated into the process leading to the total elimination of their nuclear weapons.

Six interim steps were identified:

1. an adaptation of policy and posture to preclude the use of nuclear weapons;

2. de-alerting;

3. the reduction of tactical nuclear weapons towards their elimination;

4. a demonstration of greater transparency regarding arsenals and fissile materials;

5. further development of the Trilateral Initiative; and

6. the application of the principle of irreversibility in all nuclear disarmament, arms reduction and arms control measures.

The document then goes on to call for the ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, a treaty to ban the production of fissile materials and the establishment of a subsidiary body in the Conference on Disarmament to deal with nuclear disarmament. The benefits of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones and negative security assurances are outlined and the paper concludes by calling on those not party to the treaty to accede and to renounce the nuclear weapons option.

Tuesday's list of speakers includes Belgium, Australia, Brazil, Lithuania, Nigeria, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, France, Russia, Sweden, Canada and Costa Rica.

Felicity Hill

Director

Women's International League for Peace and

Freedom

New York

Quote of the Day

"What we are addressing here are the thousands of nuclear weapons that threaten an Armageddon, intentionally or by accident...

...The time to proceed, with serious intent, to rid the world of these weapons is now."

Mr. Brian Cowen

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ireland

Greenham

- and then the fence came tumbling down

In the 1980's Greenham Common was the base for US Cruise Missiles, deployed in Europe as part of NATO's strategy for fighting a "limited nuclear war". Women from all over Britain and from farther afield camped outside in non-violent resistance. On some occasions over 30,000 women gathered to "Embrace the Base" and envision a world free of nuclear weapons. They wanted the nuclear weapons to go and for the base to be returned to its pre Second World War state as common land open to all the people.

The Cruise Missiles left in 1989 as part of the INF (intermediate-range nuclear forces) Treaty of 1987. Since then local people of all political persuasions have worked to see the Common restored. On April 8, 2000 the dream became reality when the base was finally opened with an invitation to take down the nine mile fence surrounding it. Greenham Common will once again be a place for wildlife, the free grazing of cattle, picnics and play. It is planned to commemorate the Women's Peace Camps with a stone circle and garden outside the Main Gate.

Janet Bloomfield was present at Greenham on April 8. These are her impressions of the day:

Well, it really happened...the fence came down and Greenham Common is common land for the common people again. April 8 was a perfect sunny English Spring day. It felt like that whole of creation was singing in celebration. As my friends Tim and Sophie, their 14 month old baby boy Oscar and I drove up to Blue Gate we could see a crowd of about 200 people. There was a brass band playing, lots of dogs and children and inside the gate was a sculpture of a Cruise Missile. Every other group had boltcutters with them! It was a mixed crowd of local people of all ages, Greenham Women, camera crews and local dignitaries. The atmosphere was relaxed, joyous and very peaceful - dreamlike in its softness and gentleness. I moved through the crowd and embraced old friends and shared stories with strangers. Some of the people there had played on the Common in the 1930's before it was taken by the military and were in tears at seeing their childhood playground returned. Others, like me, had begun their anti-nuclear journeys at the fence and were full of their own memories.

There were many ironies; the speeches before the ceremonial entry were all by men in suits with no mention of the women and the actual cutting of the Blue Gate was done by the leader of the Council with his chain of office round his neck! Worst of all, the Trident nuclear warhead convoy was on the road and women at the nearby Aldermaston Peace Camp were dashing from the fence cutting to monitor it.

But, nothing could deny the huge transformation that has been wrought at Greenham. 50 years of military occupation by the

UK and US gone completely and the Common is coming back into its natural state with cattle grazing and wildlife thriving and people walking at ease on the land. For me it was the most powerful manifestation of the truth that the means are the ends in the making. Resisting non-violently and non-hierarchically with love, creativity, humour and courage we got what we really wanted: No Cruise Missiles and the land returned to the people. No housing estates or shopping malls - no continued military and nuclear presence - but 900 acres of glorious open heathland and woods.

I remembered blockading the Cruise missile launchers at Blue Gate and feeling like I was outside the gates of hell, on Saturday I walked through the gates of heaven with a child in my arms.

Thank you to all women everywhere who made it possible. I leave the final words of this article to one of those who lived at Greenham in the 1980's:

"We know now that the impossible can be achieved. Back in early 1980s here in the woods of Greenham Common we gave birth to a dream. On April 8th in the year 2000 that dream has finally been realized. I remember the circles of women dancing at the coloured gates --- the energy of that --- knowing that the Spirit was far greater than anything "THEY" could build. My feet still walk the meandering paths of Green Gate, flickering memories of women sitting around a smouldering fire in the cold, of snow falling through sun beams onto new ferns, stupid soldiers peering fearfully out of their lost world, being woken in ecstasy by the enchanted nightingale, holding a sister who had blood running down her face and the imprint of a soldier's boot across her forehead, the slamming of the prison door, the treasures hidden sacredly by women in the bracken, the xylophone strung in the copse at Green Gate. Too many, far too many memories. That hallowed ground gave me so much. It made me who I am. It gave me its strength, the power of the Earth. I have stood on the Common at Blue Gate and felt the Land course up through my feet, my legs, filling my heart with knowledge that no matter where I am Greenham will ALWAYS be my home. And now, today, the Berlin Wall is torn down again. And I rejoice. From the red rock desert which is now my home I reach out with all the women who are on the Common today and all the women who are reaching out to touch it - reaching back, stretching forth - and taking the fence in my hands I too pull it down piece by miserable piece. It is not just the fence I am dismantling but ALL the injustices that violate this Earth and all her peoples...More dreams yet to come true. We continue to dream. The dreams change, we change. Reaching out, we move on. Taking time to remember our dreams. Rejoicing in our strength." - Zohl de Ishtar, Australia

~ Janet Bloomfield
Atomic Mirror & the Oxford Research Group

Radiation Exposure at TOKAIMURA

TOKYO, Oct 7, 1999 - The numbers of people who suffered radiation exposure during the nuclear accident at the Tokaimura uranium plant was almost certainly higher than government estimates of forty nine people due to the high levels of neutron radiation, coupled with the slow evacuation of the area, Greenpeace stated, based on results of an investigation around the site.

Releasing the monitoring results in Mito city and Tokyo, Greenpeace said that it had found evidence of radioactive fallout, as well as high radiation levels on a public road near the plant -- 24 hours after the all-clear was given by the government -- and compelling evidence of high levels of neutron radiation. Neutron radiation is the most penetrating and one of the most dangerous forms of radiation.

"Greenpeace undertook this survey in order to provide some independent assessment of the levels of radiation and the extent of contamination resulting from the Tokaimura accident," said Greenpeace Japan executive director, Sanae Shida. "Our results raise further serious questions about the Japanese government's nuclear safety and emergency planning procedures and the safety of the nuclear industry in general."

Greenpeace representatives said that during the critical accident period, which lasted some 20 hours, high levels of neutron radiation appear to have irradiated the environment up to a distance of at least 500 metres from the site of the accident. (This conclusion is supported by radiation modeling carried out by the environment group, Citizens Nuclear Information Centre- CNIC). This undoubtedly would have affected the hundreds of people who traveled on a nearby main road, were in the more than 170 houses, were on a golf range and were on agricultural land .

Neither the owner of the plant, JCO, nor the Japanese authorities used neutron detectors until six and a half hours after the accident. However, Greenpeace was able to estimate the full radiation doses by analysing household salt samples obtained from residents living around the plant. When salt is bombarded with neutron radiation, the radioisotope sodium (natrium) 24 is created. The amount of this radioactive isotope present in the salt can then be used to calculate the intensity of neutron radiation emitted during the accident.

"Just as the table salt was bombarded with neutrons so were all the people within range of the accident site",

said Diederik Samsom, a nuclear engineer and qualified radiation protection officer, who led the Greenpeace investigation.

"It was known 10 minutes after the accident that this incident was a criticality event (nuclear chain reaction). Evacuation from the surrounding area to avoid the penetrating neutron radiation should have been immediate. Instead it was almost four and a half hours before the evacuation order was announced."

The Greenpeace research team also found elevated levels of Iodine 131 and Iodine 133 in plant and soil samples around the plant. This shows that the accident resulted in radioactive fall-out. Iodine-133 has a short half life and therefore cannot have come from any other source. However, the lack of non-volatile radioactive elements in the samples (such as Cerium-144) suggests that the actual release from the accident was limited to the gaseous and volatile substances.

"It seems that a worse case scenario was avoided in this case. But this was more the result of good luck than good management. If the tank containing the uranium had ruptured, the situation would have undoubtedly been considerably worse," said Samsom. "Nevertheless, there was fall-out and the public around the site needs to know what were and are the exact levels. Our sampling showed there is a need for more research. It's now up to the authorities to extend their sketchy reporting to a full-scale assessment of contamination levels in the area around the plant."

Greenpeace also urges the government to conduct a long-term health monitoring programme of all people who were in the vicinity of the plant during the accident. The first step should be immediate registration of all people likely to have been exposed to radiation.

"The accident demonstrates the lack of a safety culture within the nuclear industry globally, and illustrates the inherent hazards of nuclear technology," said Greenpeace International nuclear campaigner, Shaun Burnie.

The above article is a revised Greenpeace International Press Release. Details of the results and an interpretation of the Tokaimura criticality event can be found on the Greenpeace International website at: www.Greenpeace.org

Main Committees - their focus

The following describes the role of each of the Main Committees' at the NPT.

This is taken from the official document of the 1999 PrepCom NPT/CONF.2000/1. The full document can be viewed on the Reaching Critical Will website.

News In Review will attempt to provide an analysis of the workings of the Main Committees throughout the NPT.

Main Committee I

Item 16. Review of the operation of the Treaty as provided for in its article VIII, paragraph 3, taking into account the decisions and the resolution adopted by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference:

- (a) Implementation of the provisions of the Treaty relating to non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, disarmament and international peace and security:
 - (i) Articles I and II and preambular paragraphs 1 to 3;
 - (ii) Article VI and preambular paragraphs 8 to 12;
 - (iii) Article VII, with specific reference to the main issues considered in this Committee.
- (b) Security assurances:
 - (i) United Nations Security Council resolutions 255 (1968) and 984 (1995);
 - (ii) Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Item 17. Role of the Treaty in the promotion of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and of nuclear disarmament in strengthening international peace and security and measures aimed at strengthening the implementation of the Treaty and achieving its universality.

Chair Committee I: Camilo Reyes Rodriquez (Colombia)

Main Committee II

Item 16. Review of the operation of the Treaty as provided for in its article VIII, paragraph 3, taking into account the decisions and the resolution adopted by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference:

- (c) Implementation of the provisions of the Treaty relating to non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, safeguards, and nuclear-weapon-free zones:
 - (i) Article III and preambular paragraphs 4 and 5,

especially in their relationship to article IV and preambular paragraphs 6 and 7;

(ii) Articles I and II and preambular paragraphs 1 to 3 in their relationship to articles III and IV;

(iii) Article VII.

(e) Other provisions of the Treaty.

Item 17. Role of the Treaty in the promotion of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and of nuclear disarmament in strengthening international peace and security and measures aimed at strengthening the implementation of the Treaty and achieving its universality.

Chair Committee II: Adam Kobieracki (Poland)

Main Committee III

Item 16. Review of the operation of the Treaty as provided for in its article VIII, paragraph 3, taking into account the decisions and the resolution adopted by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference:

- (d) Implementation of the provisions of the Treaty relating to the inalienable right of all Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with articles I and II:
 - (i) Articles III (3) and IV, preambular paragraphs 6 and 7, especially in their relationship to article III(1), (2) and (4) and preambular paragraphs 4 and 5;
 - (ii) Article V.

Item 17. Role of the Treaty in the promotion of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and of nuclear disarmament in strengthening international peace and security and measures aimed at strengthening the implementation of the Treaty and achieving its universality.

Chair Committee III: Markku Reimaa (Finland)



Chairs for Other Committees:

Drafting Committee: Andre Erdos (Hungary)

Credential Committee: Makmur Widodo (Indonesia)

art in action

Humps Not Dumps

In August 1999 eight Australian women set out on a trek across the South Australian desert which would eventually span around 1000 km, cover all nuclear facilities in the state and involve the co-operation of eight wild camels.

The trek was designed as a protest to the Australian Federal Government's proposal to locate a national radioactive waste dump at a place called Billa Kalina in the South Australian desert on land that is the responsibility of the Kupa Piti Kungka Tjuta, women elders of several Aboriginal nations in South and Central Australia.

The Kungkas have been speaking against the proposed dump for several years and remain strongly opposed to further nuclear projects of any kind on their land. Some of the Kungkas are from Aboriginal communities who experienced the British nuclear tests at Emu Plains and Maralinga in the 50's and 60's. Many of them have also been dislocated from their land through uranium mining. Both the Kungkas and environmentalists in Australia fear that with the opening of a national radioactive waste dump, an international dump would follow as proposed by the American/British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL) backed company, Pangea.

Wren Redback, an environmental activist from Melbourne in Victoria, became involved in supporting the Kungkas when she heard them speak at an indigenous solidarity conference held in Melbourne in 1998. She had recently finished a camel trek in Rajasthan and saw the potential for a powerful action. Before long she was joined by seven other women, students Sophia, Julia, Catherine, Izzy and Luna who, together with Mel, a biochemist, and Janine, an artist, formed "Humps Not Dumps".

After months of fundraising and learning all they could about camels, the desert and the nuclear threat in South Australia, they each paid A\$1000 to a camel farmer for eight wild camels and spent three weeks breaking the camels in before beginning their trek.

The women and their camels walked through the desert visiting small country towns and communities and protesting at nuclear facilities such as Roxby uranium mine (one of the two fully operational uranium mines in Australia) and proposed sites for the national nuclear waste dump. After three months and over 1000 km, the protest ended outside of the gates of the proposed Beverley uranium mine. The Beverley lease is held by Heathgate Resources, an American company who will use the in situ leach mining technique to extract the uranium deposit.

The "Humps Not Dumps" women spoke to wine growers and school children, town councils and mine workers to raise awareness of the proposed national radioactive waste dump and Pangea's proposals. Their actions were as courageous as they were audacious and illustrate the limitless ambitions of women and men everywhere to oppose nuclear projects that would jeopardise the environment and traditional lands.

A powerful exhibition of photographs (principally) by Mel, one of the cameleer protesters on the trek, will be on show tonight at the WILPF reception at 6-8pm, 2nd Floor, 777 UN Plaza, New York.

What's On Tuesday 25 April

event:

Abolition 2000 "The World is Watching: Bearing Witness to the Toxic Legacy of the Nuclear Age"

place & time:

Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, 47th Street and First Avenue @ 9 am

event:

Seminar Day 2: "Nuclear Disarmament and the Rule of Law"

place & time:

UN Headquarters @ 10 - 11am & 2 - 4.30pm

event:

Panel Discussion: "Preventing an Arms Race in Outer Space" - Abolition 2000 & Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space

place & time:

UN Conference Room 4 @ 1.15 - 2.45pm

event:

WILPF & Reaching Critical Will reception:
"NPT - Nuclear Party Time!"

place & time:

**2nd Floor, Church Centre,
777 UN Plaza, New York @
6pm - either exhaustion or
disarmament hit!**

