



News In Review

A collection of NGO views on the NPT Review 2000

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3pm - Conf. Room 4 - Be There!

Today non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will present arguments on the elimination of nuclear weapons to delegates of the State Parties of Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review and Extension Conference. An informal roundtable discussion with presenters will follow in Conference Room C at 6pm. Full printed text of speeches will be available. The speeches from the past three years will also be available as a background document. Following are quotes from each of the presentations.

Preface - Dr. Kathleen Sullivan, Engaged Democracy for the Nuclear Age "Although arising from various sources and experiences, these views are all part of a collective spirit, a united voice of the majority of the world's peoples that calls for the full and complete disarmament of nuclear weapons, the safe and responsible care of radioactive materials, the development of an engaged democratic process regarding nuclear decision making."

Opening Address - Mr. Ichio Itoh, Mayor of Nagasaki "Ladies and gentlemen, the citizens of Nagasaki and Hiroshima are not appealing for the abolition of nuclear weapons out of hatred or resentment over events of the past. Our only reason is our clear knowledge, gained from the miserable experience of the atomic bombings 55 years ago, that nuclear weapons are inhuman tools of indiscriminate mass destruction that violate all the rules of international law."

Nuclear Disarmament - Mr. Daniel Ellsberg, policy analyst and former nuclear war planner for the US Department of Defense in the early 1960s. "Rapid and deep cuts are possible. START negotiations must not play the perverse role of strangling disarmament. Former US government officials from both parties are calling for Continuous Arms Reductions Talks. By agreeing to START III levels before START II was in force, the US and Russia implicitly acknowledged that one treaty need not be fulfilled before progress is made on the next. Continuous Arms Reductions Talks would be a logical extension of this trend."

Ballistic Missile Defense - Lisbeth Gronlund, staff scientist with Union of Concerned Scientists. "As has become clear in recent

months, and in many speeches already made at this conference, the US pursuit of national missile defense raises concerns around the globe, including close US allies. The vote last year at the United Nations General Assembly, where only Israel, Albania, and Micronesia sided with US against a resolution calling for the ABM Treaty to be preserved strengthened, further demonstrates the high level of concern. Despite this opposition, many advocates of missile defense in the US seem determined to go ahead. What supporters of US missile defenses seem to fail to realize is that the pursuit of invulnerability implicit in national missile defense is more likely to increase rather than decrease threats to US and international security."

Regional Proliferation and Universality - Achin-Vanaik, an Indian journalist, author and analyst of the Indian movement for nuclear disarmament. "The real problem is posed for us in that newer entrants bring their own specific dangers, raise the likelihood of use of nuclear weapons somewhere sometime, and have a profoundly negative effect on the process of struggling for further disarmament. The frustration that comes from failure to build a strong enough disarmament momentum or from the emergence of new NWS is most strongly felt by the non-nuclear weapons States (NNWS) and disarmament proponents and most hampers their efforts at promoting complete disarmament."

Universality and Nonproliferation: The Case of the Middle East - Mr. Bahig Nassar, Arab Coordination Center of NGOs (To be read by Richard Salvador, Pacific Islands Association of NGOs). "There is no region in the world similar to the Middle East where the lack of universality of the NPT, due to the presence of a single nuclear weapon State that is not party to the NPT, is so tightly interconnected to the potential for the further proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. In the Middle East, a commitment by Israel to eliminate its nuclear weapons, to abide by all the provisions of the NPT, and thus to accept the principle of universality are essential to the prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction."

Research and Development - William Peden, Nuclear Disarmament Coordinator, Greenpeace International "Despite the

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NPT requirement to end the arms race, all five nuclear weapons states are engaged in programs to modernize their nuclear forces. These activities are often disguised behind or within euphemism such as 'stockpile stewardship' programs, 'safety' studies, 'life extension programs' and 'routine maintenance' - anything but what they are - programs to maintain and enhance existing nuclear arsenals. Most of these programs are anything but routine, and most involve great expenditures to preserve and extend nuclear design and production capabilities."

Deterrence - Jonathan Schell, a widely published author. "Deterrence is illogical: It drapes a veneer of reason over sheer mayhem and horror. It rests on a basic contradiction that no amount of casuistry can conceal: it seeks to prevent nuclear annihilation by threatening that same nuclear war. It seeks, at one and the same time, so to speak to be the accelerator and the brakes of the nuclear machine."

Statement on the "Peaceful" Uses of Nuclear Energy - Alice Slater, Esq., Global Resource Action Center for the Environment (GRACE) and a founding member of Abolition 2000 Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons. "While there may have been some faint ray of hope thirty years ago, when the NPT bargain was made, that there was a 'peaceful benefit' from the unleashing of the atom, it cannot be argued rationally today. And while the nuclear industry pushes its destructive product on developing countries, arguing that Chernobyl technology was cruder than highly developed and 'safe' reactors, what can we say about Three Mile Island, the worst accident in the history of commercial nuclear power production?"

The NPT and the Law - Peter Weiss, President of the International Association of the Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms. "The be-all and end-all of the law is expressed in another Latin phrase, 'pacta sunt servanda,' promises must be kept. The Nonproliferation Treaty was a solemn pact between the states possessing nuclear weapons and those which did not. The former said to the latter: 'In exchange for your agreeing not to produce or acquire these weapons, we promise to negotiate in good faith to get rid of the ones we have.' Diplomats and lawyers for the nuclear weapons States, as well as Russia and the states members of NATO and those knocking on NATO's door, do not deny that this promise was made and remains in effect."

Health and Environment - Mr. Alexey Yablokov, Co-Chairman of the Social Ecological Union, President of the Center for Russian Environmental Policy, and Deputy Chair of the Council on Ecological Problems of the Russian Academy of Sciences. "During the last four decades the real consequences of the nuclear industry only became worse. We do not have any sign that that tendency will change. It means that in the near future we will discover much more unpleasant and disturbing information on the nuclear industry than we have today. An industry which is killing and maiming this growing number of innocent people - and all in the name of 'benefiting' or 'securing' society - is unacceptable."

Indigenous Testimony on the Nuclear Age - Ms. Jacqui Katona, Executive Officer for the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation, which is the representative body for the Mirrar people who live in Kakadu National Park, site of the proposed Jabiluka uranium mine. "There is an urgent critical dialogue in which governments, participating in the NPT, must engage with Indigenous peoples. We believe the debate cannot treat disarmament and

nonproliferation separately from the mining of uranium, the testing of weapons, nuclear research and the storage of toxic waste. Some may define these activities as 'peaceful uses', however, for our people the outcome is genocide."

Nuclear weapons can and must be abolished: The view from Russia - Dr. Lev Feoktistov, member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, winner of the Lenin Prize, spent 25 years designing and developing Soviet nuclear arms. "Under any circumstance, the emergence of unforeseen circumstances involving the use of nuclear weapons is less probable in a nuclear-free world, with global monitoring in place to prevent the emergence of nuclear weapons which is strict and equally obligatory for both former nuclear and non-nuclear states. International controls can be effective only if there are no exceptions and the rules are the same for everyone."

The Personal Responsibility of Scientists - Dr. Andres Toupadakis, former nuclear chemist at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory who resigned his position on 31 January 2000. "Science without virtue is immoral science' Plato said, yet, the scientists are at the heart of the new arms race. Therefore, I appeal to all scientists worldwide whose work supports the war machine to give up their jobs as I did, to follow my example. We have an obligation to our children and grandchildren. Every citizen must see to it that life will go on without unnecessary suffering. Mordechai Vanunu, a nuclear scientist and prisoner of conscience, has warned us: 'Stop the train. Get off the train. The next stop: nuclear disaster.'"

Closing Comments - Admiral Ramu Ramdas, former Commander of the Indian Navy. "The challenges are many, but 'we the people' demand that the decision makers have no right to hijack the entire planet to meet vested interest. We must set before us a timetable to meet targets along the nuclear disarmament route to zero. The disarmament of conventional weapons must also be discussed concurrently. There may be no better opportunity than now to give expression to the many good things that we have said in the past, continue to say in the present, and no doubt will do so in the future."

Carah Ong, Coordinator, Abolition 2000

Quote of the Day

"In this regard we stress that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is an obligation and a priority and not an ultimate goal, and even less a goal that is linked, subject or conditioned to general and complete disarmament."

New Agenda Statement to Main Committee 1

May 2, 2000

Arjun Makhijani

President, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research

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

That the vast majority of delegates will adopt a program informing nuclear weapon states that they must de-alert all their nuclear weapons, adhere to the ABM Treaty and CTBT, and accept the World Court interpretation of Article VI of the NPT as requiring the achievement of nuclear disarmament in all its aspects.

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

NPT Article VI implementation; CTBT as a disarmament as well as a non-proliferation treaty; de-alerting of nuclear weapons as a safety and as a disarmament measure.

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

The desire for a clean environment and a world free of weapons of mass destruction, so far as substantive issues are concerned, and a democratization of science and security policies so far as procedural issues are concerned. It has distressed me a great deal that nuclear weapon states have harmed their own people and the environment without informed consent in the name of national security. They have also created immense ecological burdens and damage that will be passed on to future generations in the name of purchasing security for the short term. The indiscriminate, widespread and persistent nature of destruction caused by nuclear weapons is a crucial motivating factor in my work for nuclear disarmament.

Who's Who - NGO Profile

Akira Kawasaki

Secretary General, Peace Depot (Japan)

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

Though I understand the international relations on nuclear disarmament are quite severe that most of the analysts are pessimistic on the outcome of the conference, I would like to emphasize that the conference provides a very good opportunity for the civil society to realize the necessity to demand nuclear abolition now. The Peace Depot is planning to organize a nation wide speaking tour after we go back to Japan, in order to spread the information we get during the conference. I would be very happy if I were told lots of encouraging stories and experiences regarding NGO activities for abolition from my colleagues from all over the world.

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

Since the Japanese government convened the Tokyo Forum on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament in 1998, I have started to organize dialogue between the Japanese government and NGOs on Japan's disarmament policy. I am very interested in the fact that in some countries there is remarkable progress on open dialogue between the governments and NGOs. I would like to get more information on those experiences.

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

I was a university student when the Gulf War began in 1991. I started to organize university students around Tokyo to take actions in protest of the financial support by the Japanese government to the U.S. and the Allied Forces. Since then I got to know many Japanese peace activists, including those who were preparing to establish an independent research NGO to contribute Japanese grassroots peace activities, which comes to be the Peace Depot in 1997. Many of my friends who had worked together in peace movement in universities chose to become lawyers, bureaucrats, journalists for mass media and so on, but I decided to continue my activities as a staffperson for a peace NGO after long and serious consideration. I am happy I can say now that my choice was quite right!

Radioactive Waste: "Recycling" into the General Marketplace

The nuclear industry around the world has been sending to the commercial marketplace some atomic waste as if it were not radioactive, and now the floodgates are about to burst open, massively increasing radioactive "clearance," "release," or "recycling" into the marketplace and regular municipal disposal facilities. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the European Union (EU) and regulatory agencies in many of the EU member countries, are in the process of adopting "legal" levels of contamination through rulemaking, amending of regulatory guidance and/or legislation. NRC would streamline the release and recycling of contaminated metals, concrete, asphalt, lead, soils, equipment, wood and more, to be used in everyday, unrestricted commerce.

The desire to release radioactive wastes from regulatory control has been present since the earliest days of waste production. In the late 1970s-early 1980's attempts were made in the U.S. to release radioactive metals from uranium enrichment sites and although it is believed that materials actually were released, the legalization of the practice was prevented. In 1986 and 1990, the NRC adopted Below Regulatory Concern (BRC) policies which the U.S. Congress revoked in 1992 after public outrage and opposition. In the late 1990's until present, renewed efforts have been under way in the U.S. A "clearance" rulemaking is under consideration by the NRC to legalize "release" of radioactive solids into general commerce. The public continues to oppose the deregulation of nuclear waste.

Elsewhere, the Low-Level Radiation Campaign and Nuclear Free Local Authorities are among the organizations in the United Kingdom calling for their country to retain its own standards and not adopt the less protective, less enforceable EU Directive.

Various countries are using the experiences of decommissioning nuclear facilities to determine what level the industry can achieve. Some releases of radioactive metals or contaminated concrete and land have been reported. In Belgium, nuclear authorities at the Eurochem reprocessing facility, which is currently being decommissioned, have released some metal and are considering the release of radioactive concrete.

In Germany, reactors and fuel facilities where radioactive materials have been or are being considered for release include:

- Hanau (Siemens): the uranium and MOX fuel production facility, where the clearance of uranium contaminated iron, copper, aluminum and brass is being considered.
- Brunsbüttel Boiling Water Reactor nuclear power plant where the assessment of 3 batches of piping and components for release to a conventional recycling facility is being reviewed. Some of the radionuclides present in pipes include: Cobalt-60, Zinc-65, Fe (iron)-55, Nickel-63, Cobalt 58, Manganese 54, Sb (antimony) 125, Niobium-95, Fe(Iron)-59, Zirconium-95, Cadmium-113, Silver-110 and others.
- Karlstein, Bavarian and Hessian nuclear facilities where nuclear authorities are evaluating releasing large amounts of radioactive waste. In addition, the German government has released some nuclear sites from regulatory control and plans to release at least five more.

Sweden is the home to Studsvik, a company that processes radioactive materials from nuclear facilities and has released 2,100 tonnes for "reuse". Melting scrap metal and aluminum started in 1987; incineration of radioactive waste began in 1976. The material is mainly from nuclear power plants, nuclear fuel vendors and experimental research facilities. Studsvik group of companies also operate a facility in Tennessee in the US.

The Swiss government, which is not a member of the EU, has some provisions for "conditional clearance."

In South Africa, mining companies want to set levels high enough to release significant volumes of the waste they generate.

In Canada, authorities at the Chalk River site have reversed their policy from one that required regulatory control of all radioactive or unknown materials, to one that requires evidence of contamination above given levels which qualify for radioactive management.

The above examples illustrate the opposite of responsible radioactive waste management. It is important to stop, prohibit, prevent radioactive "releases," "clearance," deregulation in ALL countries to minimize public exposure and environmental contamination.

**From an article by Diane D'Arrigo
Nuclear Information Resource Service
For more information contact www.nirs.org**

HANFORD - USA

The Hanford nuclear reservation, covering some 560 square miles in Washington State, was a key production center for military plutonium from its start-up in 1943. Many of its operations — including nine production reactors at its peak — are now shut down, and the 'clean up' of over fifty years of plutonium production and processing is now the main task for the 10,000-person workforce engaged at the site, judged to be the most radioactively contaminated in the United States. Hanford intends to glassify 54 million gallons of radioactive waste buried in 177 under-ground tanks, an endeavor that could take up to 30 years and cost \$40 billion to \$50 billion. In July 1998, the UK company British Nuclear Fuels Ltd (BNFL) led a consortium that won a \$6.9 billion DOE contract to treat and immobilize 20 to 25 percent of the waste over the next 20 years (see Editor's Note).

Under an earlier 1989 Tri-Party Agreement signed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US Department of Energy (DOE) and Washington State, the DOE agreed to pump the radioactive liquid waste from 149 aging, single-shell tanks into newer, double-shell tanks as an "interim stabilization" measure, a project which has been plagued with repeated changes and time extensions.

But Hanford contractors have promoted new plutonium production and processing projects, particularly over the past year or so. One project being pushed is the re-opening of the Fast Flux Test Reactor (FFTF), which originally operated for 10 years to 1992. FFTF has since been maintained on standby, at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. In fiscal year 2000 the cost will be \$28 million. The DOE calculates that it will cost about \$200 million to dismantle the FFTF or \$230 million to revive it by 2004.

Among the possible uses now promoted for FFTF are plutonium-238 production for NASA space batteries; the accelerator transmutation of waste; isotope experimentation and tritium production (for details visit: www.ne.doe.gov). But the Government Accountability Project (GAP) charges that the civilian missions proposed for FFTF mask the true rationale which, according to a recently released internal memorandum, is production of "special isotopes in significant quantities for national security".

(See: www.whistleblower.org/www/fftfeispr.htm). Another 'argument' to restart FFTF is the availability of 'cheap' Kalkar plutonium fuel. The German fast breeder reactor SNR-300 at Kalkar has never been put into operation — the site has been transformed into an adventure park — and the German government has not yet decided what to do with the core it has in store. The US idea to use it at Hanford would solve many problems in Germany.

Critics such as the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA) - comprising over thirty local, regional, and national organizations representing the concerns of communities living in the shadows of the US nuclear weapons complex sites - charge that investment in FFTF development will divert resources away from the major cleanup programs such as that for the old K-Basins, pools holding 2,300 tons of irradiated nuclear fuel. Cleanup of the K-Basins is expected to cost \$1.6 billion and to be completed by 2005.

The DOE has recently held public consultation on its PEIS for FFTF and other Hanford projects. Pacific Northwest National Lab (PNNL) and its contractor, Battelle were commissioned in the summer of 1999 to produce a preliminary scoping plan for FFTF which concluded there was a "compelling need and support for the restart of FFTF". (For more details visit: www.ne.doe.gov/nerac/neracoverview1a.html)

But proliferation concerns have been raised by ANA, the Nuclear Control Institute, and others over FFTF restart. The DOE's Office of Nonproliferation and National Security is looking at the use of plutonium fuel in the FFTF, in the context of international nuclear nonproliferation treaties.

FFTF formerly ran on a plutonium-based MOX fuel. DOE currently plans to use an on-site supply of leftover MOX fuel for six years, then to import the Kalkar fuel from Germany, and later to convert to HEU fuel. A final decision on whether to restart the FFTF is scheduled for December 2000.

One other main Hanford plant under examination is the never-used Fuels and Materials Examination Facility (FMEF), which is being considered for the role of specialist chemical reprocessor of plutonium-238. The New York Times reported in October 1999 that the Plutonium Finishing Plant at Hanford was shut down for long periods in 1996 and 1997 after 17 violations of rules meant to avoid criticalities. The violations took place as technicians tried "intermittently to stabilize liquid plutonium left over from weapons production". Transuranic plutonium-contaminated sludge wastes are destined for final disposal at the WIPP facility in New Mexico. (See also Hanford Watch: www.hanfordwatch.org and Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA): www.ananuclear.org).

**David Lowry and Mycle Schneider,
WISE-Paris Plutonium Investigation.**

To download the journal visit: www.pu-investigation.org

Editor's Note: The BNFL contract with respect to Hanford is currently under review, as BNFL has recently admitted to falsifying safety data on plutonium fuel shipped to Japan, Switzerland and Germany, among other things (see News in Review No.1 "BNFL's Road to Industrial Meltdown"). US Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said that BNFL's proposal to turn 54 million gallons of radioactive liquids, sludges and residues into glass had become "unfundable", and he would now consider seeking another contractor.

Main Committee

Observers to Main Committee 3 on Monday would be excused for thinking they had fallen through a wormhole in the space-time continuum and ended up in the 1960s. Speaker after speaker talked straightfacedly about the "benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy", as if nuclear power was still the wonder technology of Eisenhower's time that would produce electricity "too cheap to meter". No-one mentioned the fact that the vast majority of signatories to the NPT have no intention of either beginning or expanding nuclear power programs, and that the Article IV carrot, of guaranteed access to nuclear energy, is effectively redundant. No-one mentioned the accidents, the crises over radioactive waste storage AND DISPOSAL, or the fact that nuclear energy, despite the vast sums of public money wasted on it, is still the most expensive conventional electricity-generating technology available.

The EU's speech was a good example of the slightly otherworldly nature of the rhetoric. It promised that the Union "will continue to work hard to ensure that all States can make use of the benefits of nuclear energy", without explaining why so many EU states had themselves chosen not to make use of these "benefits". As if to underline the absurdity of this statement, the EU speech was actually given by Portugal, one of the six EU states to have never built a nuclear reactor! Of the nine others, one, Italy, closed all its reactors after Chernobyl, and three (Germany, Sweden and Belgium) are planning phase-outs, while the Netherlands has set a date of 2004 for its remaining unit to close. None of the four others are either constructing or planning new reactors. Indeed, with the completion of Civeaux-2 in France last March, nuclear construction has ceased in Western Europe and North America. For the first time since the 1950s, none of these countries is building or planning new units.

This reality did not penetrate Main Committee 3, however. Delegations continued to talk about nuclear power as if it was a priceless gift to mankind, and not the most expensive and environmentally destructive technological mistake of the 20th century. What was specifically avoided was the clear fact that the failure of nuclear energy has greatly reduced one of the major incentives at the heart of the NPT bargain, the promise of access to nuclear energy for Non-Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS). In the late 1960s, when the NPT was negotiated, this deal would have been an attractive one, as nuclear power was then seen as an energy technology of enormous promise.

This bargain, however, is now outdated. In the intervening decades the allure of nuclear power has dimmed, and few countries are seriously considering it as an energy option. As a result, a key component of the NPT bargain is effectively obsolete. The Treaty offers to non-nuclear states a technology which the vast majority simply do not want. While the IAEA continues to develop nuclear applications in areas such as health, agriculture and industry, and NPT signatories continue to pay lip-service to the provisions of Article IV, the central fact remains that nuclear technology is not and will not ever be, the incentive it was when the NPT was opened for signature. Given this, and the fact that the Nuclear Weapon States are not meeting their Article VI commitments, the NNWS have every reason to feel that the incentives they were offered to sign onto to the NPT have been much reduced in value.

Ben Pearson
Greenpeace International

What's On

3 May 2000

NGO Presentations are being given to the NPT delegations today.

Please attend this vital forum.

NGO speakers agenda is:

- Opening Speech
- Nuclear disarmament
- Ballistic Missile Defense
- Article IV and Alternative Energy Sources
- Law
- Deterrence
- Research and Development
- Health and the Environment
- Indigenous Testimony in the Nuclear Age
- Nuclear Weapons Can and Must be Abolished: The View from Russia
- The Personal Responsibility of Scientists
- Closing Speech

Plenary Meeting:

NGO Presentations

Sessions begin @ 3pm
Conference Room 4

Main Committee 1:

Subsidiary Body 1
Sessions begin @ 10am
Conference Room 4

Main Committee 2:

Sessions begin @ 10am
General Assembly Hall

Main Committee 3:

No sessions scheduled

Please check times and venues