Ridding the World of Nuclear Weapons

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Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade

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The Threat Remains

More than 30,000 nuclear weapons remain deployed or in storage. Even if
START II reductions are completed in 2003, the world’s nuclear arsenals will
still contain the destructive power of more than 300,000 Hiroshima bombs.

Development of nuclear weapons continues.

The danger of nuclear war will remain as long as nuclear weapons continue to
exist. Political leaders have brought the world to the brink of destruction in a
number of near-nuclear crises. Computers, like political leaders, are also
imperfect. NORAD and its Russian equivalent have had many false alarms. The
spread of nuclear capabilities to other countries increases the risk of accidental
or deliberate nuclear war.

Numerous accidents with naval nuclear weapons already threaten our seas and
our coastal communities. Nuclear warheads and nuclear power reactors lie on
the ocean floor and nuclear-armed and nuclear-powered submarines are prowling
the seas.

Production of nuclear weapons has caused untold environmental damage. Radioactive elements and hazardous chemicals
contaminate most of the U.S. and former-USSR nuclear weapon manufacturing facilities. Cleanup costs in the U.S.
alone could ultimately exceed $200 billion.

Source: Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons’ web site: <watserv1.uwaterloo.ca/%7Eplough/cnanw/cnanw.html>

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Eliminating Nuclear Weapons: A Progress Report


This is the fourth annual Abolition 2000 report card to assess progress toward a nuclear weapons free world by looking at this year’s events in the context of the 11 points of the Abolition 2000 Statement. It was released on UN Day, October 24, to recall the initial promise of the UN Charter: “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.”

(1) Abolition Convention
Immediately initiate and conclude by the year 2000 negotiations on a nuclear weapons abolition convention that require the phased elimination of all nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework, with provisions for effective verification and enforcement.

The New Agenda Coalition (NAC) grouping of countries sponsored a resolution at the UN General Assembly at its final session in 1998: UN Resolution 53/77 “Towards a Nuclear Weapon Free World: The Need for a New Agenda.” A large majority agreed to this resolution. Most encouragingly, 12 NATO countries, including Germany, abstained. This indicated their willingness to take the proposals seriously. The NAC will table another resolution at the UN this year. [For more on this, see page 8.]

Grade: 1 out of 10.

(2) No First Use
Immediately make an unconditional pledge not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons.

The NATO war was a defining event of 1999 in relation to nuclear policy. NATO’s review of its nuclear posture, timed for NATO’s 50th Anniversary Summit in April, was overshadowed by events in the Balkans. The developing debate about no-first use initiated by Canada and Germany was completely sidelined. However, the alliance did agree to a review of its nuclear policy in December 1999, which may give an opportunity for progress. Meanwhile, Washington and London argue that the right to first use of nuclear weapons gives NATO the flexibility to respond to a variety of threats to the alliance.

The increasing insecurity felt by Russia has led it to become more in favour of the policy of first use of nuclear weapons than before. This stance could not have been clearer than at the Abolition 2000 Meeting in St. Petersburg in June. To speakers from the Russian Federation, NATO policy was identified clearly as U.S. Foreign Policy. The NATO action, carried out without the mandate of the UN and against international law, was seen as an extension of the Cold War, or ‘Cold Peace,’ as one speaker called it. Why didn’t the U.S. abide by the clauses of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty? What about U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe? Russians, already suffering from vastly reduced living standards since the introduction of the market economy, have now suffered the further indignity of this attack on their compatriots. Already upset at NATO expansion near their border, Russians view recent events as further evidence of the pursuit of complete global military dominance by the U.S. government.

China remains the only state with a public policy of no first use, although India has recently made a statement in favour of this posture. Speaking at the UN in September the representative of India urged nuclear weapons’ states to incorporate “no-first-use” and then “no-use” policies to de-legitimise nuclear weapons globally.

Grade: 1 out of 10.
(3) Test Ban Treaty
Rapidly complete a truly Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) with a zero threshold and with the stated purpose of precluding nuclear weapons development by all states.

On October 13, when after a bitter debate, the U.S. Senate voted down ratification of the CTBT, it dealt a severe blow to the world’s non-proliferation regime, and jeopardized the treaty’s chances of ever becoming law. Since the CTBT was open for signatures in 1996, 154 nations have signed the convention and 45 of them have ratified it. Among the 44 countries with nuclear weapons, power stations or other atomic capabilities, all but India, Pakistan and North Korea have signed. All five declared nuclear powers — the U.S., Russia, France, the UK and China — signed the treaty, but only the UK and France have ratified it. India has vowed not to sign until India does.

Twenty-one nuclear-capable countries have so far ratified the treaty, but ratification is still needed from 23 others. What will happen to the ratification process in these other countries after the recent U.S. Senate debacle?

Grade: -5 out of 10.

(4) No New Weapons, Disable Deployed Weapons
Cease to produce and deploy new and additional nuclear weapons systems, and commence to withdraw and disable deployed nuclear weapons systems.

The Kosovo war also had a profound effect on prospects for nuclear disarmament. An already resistant Russian Duma will not ratify START II and, despite a flurry of diplomatic activity between Russia and the US, discussion on START III talks look bleak.

The need for de-alerting nuclear warheads was brought into sharp focus by growing concerns about the possible effects of the Y2K. 4,400 of the world’s nuclear weapons are still held on “hair trigger alert.” Early warning and communication systems are liable to be severely affected by Y2K, thereby risking a misreading of nuclear weapons data and increasing the danger of an unauthorized or accidental use of nuclear weapons. Citizens’ groups involved in Abolition 2000 are calling for a World Atomic Safety Holiday — taking all nuclear weapons off “hair trigger alert” from December 1, 1999 onwards, and removing all nuclear warheads from their delivery systems so that they cannot be launched immediately. On September 29, the U.S. and Russia announced that they have millennium bug glitches in all but one of their seven Cold War-era “hotlines.”

The situation regarding India and Pakistan has deteriorated even further since their nuclear tests last year. In April, the head of India’s missile program said that the Agni-II, with a range of 2,000-3,000 kilometers, was ready for deployment with a nuclear warhead. In his Independence Day speech, India’s Prime Minister announced that “Agni-II has been tested... and will be integrated into our defence arsenal.” India’s space launcher successfully launched three satellites from one rocket, and could be converted into an intercontinental ballistic missile with multiple warheads, given enough time and money. There is no doubt Pakistan will say that they too can achieve this, with enough money.

Prior to the Indian elections, the Indian government produced a chilling document outlining its nuclear doctrine. The doctrine declares that “the very existence of offensive doctrine pertaining to the first use of nuclear weapons and the insistence of some nuclear weapons states on the legitimacy of their use even against non-nuclear-weapon countries, constitutes a threat to peace, stability and sovereignty of states.” It is this threat, the doctrine declares, that India’s nuclear weapons are supposed to protect against. What account does the Indian government take of the International Court of Justice opinion declaring such threat of nuclear weapons “generally illegal?” How will Pakistan respond? The recent military coup there does not bode well for the future. China announced that it is developing a neutron bomb and an equivalent of the W-88 warhead (used by the U.S. and the UK on Trident submarines).

Grade: 2 out of 10.

(5) Producing/Reprocessing Radioactive Materials
Prohibit the military and commercial production and reprocessing of all weaponsusable radioactive materials.

As the Fissile Material Cut Off talks in Geneva remain stymied in procedural wrangling, the first of a series of up to 80 plutonium fuel shipments between Europe and Japan (that could take place over the next 10 to 15 years) started this year. This was greeted with protests from citizens’ groups and governments along the route. Among those lodging strenuous objections with the Japan, France and the U.K. are: Ireland, South Africa, New Zealand, Mauritius, Fiji, the South Pacific Forum, the Federated States of Micronesia, South Korea and the Association of Caribbean States. [For more on this, see page 24.]

Confidence in European plutonium-MOX production was further undermined following the revelation in September that vital quality checks on MOX produced for Takahama in Japan by British Nuclear Fuel Limited were bypassed and data sheets were falsified. While this data falsification scandal has placed a question mark over the MOX fuel arriving in Japan, it also underlines the inherent danger in such fuel. Even a small error in production could lead to a major accident when it is loaded into a reactor. It ap-
pears that European plutonium-MOX fuel manufacturers are failing to adequately test the distribution of plutonium in their MOX fuel. This failure drastically undermines reactor safety.

The dangers of nuclear fuel fabrication going badly wrong were underlined by the September 30 nuclear accident at a test facility in the uranium processing plant located in Tokaimura, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan. Workers at the plant mistakenly put nearly eight times the proper amount of uranium into a mixing tank, triggering an uncontrolled nuclear reaction. Initially, an atmospheric radiation count of 0.84 mSv/hour (10,000 times the annual dose limit) was monitored. Fifty-five workers at the plant were exposed to high levels of radiation and three became seriously ill. Over 300,000 people were confined to their houses for over 24 hours. The accident has been rated a 5 on an internationally established scale of 1-9 (Chernobyl was a 7.)

On the plus side, U.S.-Russian cooperation on the control of fissile materials continues after a hiatus caused by NATO’s war.

Grade: 1 out of 10.

(6) Monitor & Register Fissile Materials
Subject all weapons-usable radioactive materials and nuclear facilities in all states to international accounting, monitoring and safeguards, and establish a public, international registry of all weapons-usable radioactive materials.

No other government followed the lead of the UK last year when it announced the details of its stocks of weapons-usable radioactive materials.

Grade: 0 out of 10.

(7) Stop R&D and Testing in Labs
Prohibit nuclear weapons research, design, development and testing through laboratory experiments including but not limited to non-nuclear hydrodynamic explosions and computer simulations, subject all nuclear weapons laboratories to international monitoring and close all nuclear test sites.

The U.S. sub-critical nuclear test program continues unabated. The latest U.S. Department of Energy’s detonation of a subcritical nuclear test, code-named “Oboe 1,” the seventh in a series that began in 1997, was detonated on September 30 at the Nevada Test Site. [For more on this, see page 35.]

The U.S. nuclear weapons complex has not had an easy year. Dogged by accusations of lax security and spying, it issued guidelines to its employees on how to conduct their love lives. Lawrence Livermore Laboratory’s top laser scientist, Michael Campbell, who was responsible for the National Ignition Facility project, resigned in August after it was revealed he never earned a doctorate from Princeton University. More importantly, the $5 billion National Ignition Facility (NIF) — the centerpiece of the $60 billion* U.S. “Stockpile Stewardship” program — is seriously over budget. The true nature of “Stockpile Stewardship” was revealed in a public ceremony at Livermore Laboratory this summer, featuring the “Death Star” centerpiece of the program. U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson joined Livermore Lab employees and officials from various federal agencies (such as the Strategic Air Command) to oversee the dedication of the 130 ton spherical target chamber of the NIF, designed to contain thermonuclear explosions. The installation of the target chamber marked the halfway point in NIF construction. The nuclear establishments of France and the UK have invested over one hundred million dollars in the U.S. Stockpile Stewardship Program.

* This is the U.S. General Accounting Office estimate for 13 years of Stockpile Stewardship.

Grade: -4 out of 10.

(8) New Nuclear Weapons Free Zones
Create additional nuclear weapons free zones such as those established by the treaties of Tlatelolco and Rarotonga.

Very few African states have ratified the Treaty of Pelindaba, creating the world’s latest Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in Africa. No nuclear weapon state has ratified the protocols related to it. Any discussion of a Central European Nuclear Weapons Free Zone was buried when NATO bombed Belgrade.

Grade: 0 out of 10.

(9) Declare the Threat and Use Illegal
Recognize and declare the illegality of threat or use of nuclear weapons, publicly and before the World Court.

One hundred years after the first Hague Peace Conference, which helped lay the foundations of today’s international law, governments and citizens’ groups commemorated the event at The Hague and in St. Petersburg. At the end of the Hague Appeal for Peace Conference, several hundred people from all over the world joined the “2000 Walk for Nuclear Disarmament” to NATO headquarters (organized by Abolition 2000 group, For Mother Earth). Calling for NATO to uphold international law and abandon its policy
of nuclear deterrence, the Walk arrived on May 27 to be greeted by riot police and water cannons. On May 27 and 28, 450 people were arrested.

Actions to uphold international law against the U.S. and UK Trident systems have continued in Bangor, Washington and in Scotland. In Washington State, home of the Pacific U.S. Trident Base, nine defendants were unanimously acquitted by tearful jurors. Presiding Juror Barbara Johnson explained that the jurors had been deeply moved by the defendants’ convictions and courage, and that “we discussed the ramifications of this decision on our community,” but that ultimately, we simply “followed the law” in reaching not-guilty verdicts. Judge James Riehl concluded, “I think we all agree that the use of nuclear weapons is unacceptable.”

In Scotland, a judge took the even bolder step of declaring Trident illegal. As part of the Trident Ploughshares 2000 campaign, 326 arrests and 39 trials took place. The illegality of nuclear weapons was argued strongly by each defendant. In the best news all year, three Trident Ploughshares activists made history at Greenock Sheriff’s court on October 21 when Sheriff (Judge) Margaret Gimblett declared Trident illegal and acquitted the activists of “malicious damage,” letting them walk free. Sheriff Gimblett said the women were acting to prevent a crime. The implications of these decisions for the abolition movement will continue to reverberate for many years to come. [For more on this, see page 12.]

Grade: 8 out of 10.

(10) Sustainable Energy
Establish an international energy agency to promote and support the development of sustainable and environmentally safe energy sources.

Although the use of renewable energy is growing, there is no overall global strategy to encourage it. In June, U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson announced a plan to produce 5% of the nation’s electricity from wind by 2020, up from 0.1% now.

In August, an opinion poll in Japan, conducted for the Abolition 2000 Global Network. For more information, contact: Janet Bloomfield <jbloomfield@gn.apc.org> or Pamela S. Meidell, The Atomic Mirror, P.O. Box 220, Port Hueneme, CA USA 93044; Tel: 805-985-5073; Email: <pmeidell@igc.org>

In September, the Belgian group, For Mother Earth, signed a contract to place a 1.65 megawatt wind turbine near the Belgian coast as an investment for the future, and to promote anti-nuclear politics and green energy. This Vestas-turbine could generate electricity for 1,200 families! 

Grade: 3 out of 10.

(11) Citizens’ Participation
Create mechanisms to ensure the participation of citizens and NGOs in planning and monitoring the process of nuclear weapons abolition.

In 1999, the Abolition 2000 network grew to over 1300 groups in 89 countries. At its annual meeting in The Hague in May, Abolition 2000 agreed to aim for 2000 groups in the network by the 2000 NPT Review Conference next April. Although NGOs spoke at the New York NPT Prep Comm, access was limited. The aspirations of the Hague Appeal for Peace for the development of a “New Diplomacy” between citizens and governments are still limited by the secrecy of the nuclear weapons states. Abolition 2000 made a major step forward when U.S. abolitionists launched the U.S. Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons — part of the Abolition 2000 Global Network.

Grade: 5 out of 10

Moorea Declaration:
“The anger and tears of colonized peoples arise from the fact that there was no consultation, no consent, no involvement in the decision when their lands, air and waters were taken for the nuclear build-up, from the very start of the nuclear era.... Colonized and indigenous peoples have, in the large part, borne the brunt of this nuclear devastation.... Indigenous and colonized peoples must be central...in decisions relating to the nuclear weapons cycle — and especially in the abolition of nuclear weapons. The inalienable right to self-determination, sovereignty and independence is crucial in allowing all peoples to join in the common struggle to rid the planet forever of nuclear weapons.”

Protests by the South Pacific Forum against nuclear shipments were treated with contempt by BNFL. Aboriginal peoples continue the struggle to stop Energy Resources from mining the heart of Kakadu National Park at Jabiru, Australia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The plan to create a global nuclear waste depository in Australia is also being resisted. The company PANGEA has a budget of US$5 million per annum from BNFL to organize a PR campaign on the citizens of Australia, who are opposed to the plan.

Grade: 0 out of 10

Total grade: 12 out of 120

Source: Email from Pamela S. Meidell, October 24, 1999.
New Agenda Coalition Vote at UN

By Senator Douglas Roche, O.C., former Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament to the UN.

On November 9, the UN First Committee adopted the New Agenda Coalition resolution with 90 yes votes, 13 no’s and 37 abstentions. Last year’s First Committee vote was 97-19-32. The heart of the resolution is contained in Operative Paragraph 1: “Calls upon the Nuclear Weapon States [NWS] to make an unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the speedy and total elimination of their nuclear arsenals and to engage without delay in an accelerated process of negotiations, thus achieving nuclear disarmament to which they are committed under Article VI of the NPT [Non-Proliferation Treaty].”

Four NWS (the U.S., Russia, the U.K. and France) again voted no and China repeated its abstention. In 1998 NATO, which then had 16 states, voted 0-4-12. This year, with 19 members, Turkey and the Czech Republic moved from no to abstention, while Hungary and Poland voted no. Thus, the NATO count was 0-5-14. Though some states (e.g. Azerbaijan and Benin) dropped to abstention from last year’s yes, the effect of this was offset by 14 NATO states together sending a message to the NWS that progress must be made.

The explanations-of-vote contained revealing observations. The U.K. said the NAC resolution was incompatible with the maintenance of a credible minimum deterrence. France accused the NAC of having ulterior motives in challenging the right to self-defence. The U.S. said it had already given a “solemn undertaking” concerning Article VI of the NPT and why should it be asked to give more? Canada, which abstained, praised the resolution but added: “The nuclear-weapon states and their partners and allies need to be engaged if the goals of the New Agenda resolution are to be achieved.” This was a tacit admission that the Western NWS (the NATO leaders) had tied Canada’s hands. Australia, which also abstained, said it did not want to challenge the sincerity of the NWS commitment to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons.

It is disappointing that the leaders of the NATO countries could not bring themselves to vote that the Nuclear Weapon States make an “unequivocal undertaking” to engage without delay in negotiations to achieve nuclear disarmament. The present situation is truly alarming:
- The U.S. Senate has rejected the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;
- The U.S. is preparing to deploy a missile defence system over the objections of Russia and China;
- India is preparing to deploy nuclear weapons in air, land and sea;
- Pakistan, which has successfully tested nuclear weapons, is now ruled by the military;
- Meaningful discussions at the Conference on Disarmament are deadlocked;
- The preparatory conferences for the 2000 Review of the NPT have failed;
- The Russian Duma has not ratified START II.

The gains made in the past decade on reducing the dangers posed by nuclear weapons are being wiped out. Immense dangers to the world lie ahead if the present negative trends are not reversed.

We have offered logic, law and morality to government leaders as reasons for them to move forward on nuclear disarmament. We are tempted, at this moment, to despair that we will ever be heard. That is the wrong reaction. We are being heard as never before, and the proponents of the status quo are being forced to invent the most preposterous reasons to justify their slavish adherence to weapons that have justly been called “the ultimate evil.” We do not have the luxury of despair at this moment. We must continue, with all our growing might, to speak truth to power.

It is disturbing to be thwarted by a residual Cold War mentality driven by the military-industrial complex that infects the political decision-making process with fears of an unknown enemy.

It is disturbing to be thwarted by a residual Cold War mentality driven by the military-industrial complex that infects the political decision-making process with fears of an unknown enemy. It is myopic for NATO government leadership to live in fear of U.S. government retribution for voting to advance nuclear disarmament. It is an abrogation of governments’ responsibility to humanity to stare silently into the abyss of more nuclear weapons.

But rage bounces off the shields of denial constructed by the powerful. It does little to berate government leaders. Those in governments and in civil
society who have worked hard for the successful passage of the NAC resolution as a way out of looming catastrophe must be humble enough to recognize that there is still not a vibrant public opinion in our society against nuclear weapons. The public generally does not know enough about the present situation even to be in denial.

The time has come to inject renewed energy into the nuclear weapons debate. The sheer force of this energy must penetrate the consciences of decision-makers in the powerful states and thus transfer the nuclear abolition debate into a whole new field of action. We must rise above the political, economic, social and cultural blockages to abolition and infuse the societal and political processes with a dynamic of action. The approach I am calling for must be based on our overpowering love for God’s planet and all humanity on it. In this call to witness, we will find new confidence in our ability to overcome the temporary denial by politicians and officials who do not understand the power of this transformation moment in history.

By coincidence, the NAC vote, in which the NWS are still showing their defiance, occurred on the tenth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The wall of resistance to nuclear weapons’ abolition will also crumble when the non-nuclear allies of the U.S. demonstrate the courage that we must give them. Already there are signs, in the speculation that tactical nuclear weapons will be removed from seven NATO countries in Europe, that NATO leadership is feeling this pressure.

Our first task now is to give our complete support to the leaders of the New Agenda Coalition, telling them we will not cease our active support of their efforts. Our second is to gather more strength among the public so that even the most skeptical of leaders will feel a new heat on this issue. Our third is to be a witness in our own communities, each in our own way, to our unflagging desire to leave a world for humanity that will indeed be nuclear-weapons-free.

Source: Statement by Senator Douglas Roche, November 9, 1999 via CNANW’s Abolition Listserver.

The New Arms Race

By Daniel Schorr

The Clinton administration appears to be heading for a confrontation with Russia and China on its plans to develop an antiballistic missile (ABM) system capable of warding off blows from rogue states like North Korea and Iran.

In late October, the Russian Defense Ministry called a news conference to warn that if the U.S. attempts to establish an ABM system, Russia will deploy enough nuclear warheads to overwhelm it. Deputy Defense Minister Nikolai Mikhaylov said Russia also has the capability of targeting any ABM installation.

The administration has offered Russia inducements such as help in completing a giant radar installation in Siberia in return for changes in the 1972 ABM Treaty banning antimissile defense.

What the administration has not disclosed is that Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott also delivered what the Russians regard as “a polite ultimatum” indicating the U.S. will abrogate the ABM Treaty if the Russians do not agree to modify it.

At a Moscow meeting on September 8 and 9, Talbott presented President Yeltsin’s government with two letters outlining the American position. Shortly thereafter, a delegation of American scientists and former diplomats arrived in Moscow and was briefed by the Russians on the Talbott meeting.

The statement is said to have told the Russians that President Clinton expects to give a green light next June for a so-called “national missile defense system,” starting with sites in Grand Forks, N.D., and Alaska, and eventually covering all 50 states. The Russians quoted the letter as saying that if the Russians don’t agree to changes, the U.S. may simply abrogate a treaty as not being in the American national security interest.

The Russians said they had told Talbott that “we are on the threshold of disaster and a destruction of the whole arms control framework.” Since then, the Russians have met with officials in Beijing. As a result, Russia and China have joined forces in submitting a resolution to the United Nations Security Council calling for “strict compliance” with the ABM Treaty.

Professor Theodore Postol of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a member of the American arms-control delegation that met with officials and military leaders in Moscow, says, “The Clinton administration has put us on the path to an arms race... an international disaster of historic proportions.”

Y2K and Nukes

The European Parliament passed a resolution on November 18, calling on the U.S. and Russia to take 5,600 nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert before December 31, for the Y2K 'rollover.'

De-alerting has also been incorporated in two recent resolutions passed by the United Nations General Assembly and two similar ones passed last year, as well as two resolutions passed recently by the Australian senate. It was recommended by the Canberra Commission of 1996 and by the Tokyo Forum.

We are writing to convey our extreme concern over the possibility that Year 2000 (Y2K)-related computer failures in nuclear weapons systems may lead to an unacceptable risk of nuclear war by accident or miscalculation.

In the current political situation, this is most especially the case. According to Alexander Arbatov, of the Defence Committee of the Russian Duma, U.S.-Russian relations are at 'the worst, most acute, most dangerous juncture since the U.S.-Soviet Berlin and Cuban missile crises.'

The danger during the Y2K rollover lies primarily in the possibility that spurious data may induce commanders, even at the highest levels, to mistakenly authorise the launches of nuclear weapons. Similar events have occurred in the past.

If Y2K breakdowns produce inaccurate early warning data, or if communications and command channels are compromised, the combination of hair-trigger force postures and Y2K failures could be disastrous. There should therefore be a 'safety first' approach to Y2K and nuclear arsenals.

Because none of the nuclear weapons states can guarantee that their nuclear-related computer systems are Y2K compliant, the only responsible solution is for them all to stand down nuclear operations.

U.S. are such that they dwarf any other considerations. The future of life itself on earth could be in doubt.

In light of this, we strongly urge that you remove all strategic and tactical nuclear weapons from 'hair-trigger' alert, and place them in a status in which at least hours and preferably days would be required to launch them.

The Canberra Commission in August 1996, noted that terminating nuclear alert status would:
- Reduce dramatically the chances of accidental or unauthorised nuclear missile launch.
- Help set the stage for intensified cooperation on a more far-reaching disarmament agenda
- Have a very positive influence on the political climate between nuclear weapon states.

This last is especially relevant in the current tension between Russia and NATO, which has prompted Russia to withdraw from cooperation with the U.S. on Y2K problems.

According to the Canberra Commission, “Taking nuclear forces off alert could be verified by national technical means and nuclear weapon state inspection arrangements. In the first instance, reduction in alert status could be adopted by the nuclear weapon states unilaterally.” If both sides are verifiably de-alerted, it will not be possible for either to launch a disarming first strike.

The immediate stakes are so high, and the potential for global catastrophe so clear, that mutually verified de-alerting in the face of the Y2K computer problem must take precedence over all other considerations of politics and national security.

Source: Letter to Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin, Defence Ministers and Secretaries, Heads of State and UN Missions. It was signed by over 460 NGOs, 22 Australian MPs, 10 members of European Parliament, 9 NZ parliamentarians and 4 Canadian parliamentarians and three U.S. congresspeople.

For more information, contact: Friends of the Earth/Sydney, 17 Lord St., Newtown, NSW, Australia; Tel.: 61-2-9517-3903; Web site: <nonukes@foesyd.org.au>
New Law

Makes Austria Nuclear-Free

The Austrian National Council (Parliament) passed the following “Nuclear-free Austria” Constitutional Act on July 1, 1999. This law went into force on August 13, 1999.

(1) It is prohibited to manufacture, store, transport, test or use nuclear weapons in Austria. Facilities/installations for the deployment of nuclear weapons shall not be established.

(2) It is prohibited by law to establish facilities in Austria which serve the purpose of producing energy by nuclear fission. If such facilities/plants already exist in Austria, it is prohibited to start them.

(3) The transportation of fissionable materials in the territory of Austria is prohibited by law, unless this ban (prohibition) is contrary to binding obligations of public international law. This prohibition doesn't include the transportation of fissionable materials for the purpose of exclusively peaceful use, however, it includes the transportation of fissionable materials for the purpose of producing energy by nuclear fission and of materials concerning the spent fuel disposal. Other dispensations shall not be given.

(4) It should be guaranteed by law that damages which are caused by a nuclear accident in Austria should be compensated appropriately, and that this right to compensation could be enforced versus foreign natural and legal persons who have caused the damage.

(5) The Austrian Federal Government is obliged to implement this Federal Constitutional Act.

Source: Document Number MGBL/OS/19990813/1/0149. Provisional, unofficial translation by Dieter Deiseroth.

Back from the Brink Campaign

On January 25, 1995, millions of people were minutes away from being incinerated by a mistaken nuclear weapons launch. Russian radar detected a US-Norwegian rocket that looked like a U.S. Trident nuclear missile. The routine notice that it was a weather rocket was lost in the bureaucracy. The black suitcase containing Russian nuclear launch codes was already with President Yeltsin when he was informed that it was a mistaken alert.

There have been many false alerts on the U.S. side as well, including one in which a nuclear warfare training tape being run on the command center computer was mistaken for the real thing.

The Cold War officially ended after the USSR fell apart eight years ago. Yet today, the people of the U.S. and Russia still face the risk of being vaporized in an accidental nuclear war. That risk is increasing because of deteriorating infrastructure and the poor state of the Russian economy.

This risk can be greatly reduced by taking nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert. De-alerting nuclear weapons does not require a change in the size of the U.S. or Russian arsenals. Nor are lengthy arms reduction negotiations or legislative debates needed. De-alerting simply requires a determination by national leaders to increase nuclear safety and abandon confrontational nuclear postures.

On December 9, 1999, a major national effort to de-alert nuclear weapons, the “Back from the Brink Campaign,” was launched. A new video by the Center for Defense Information, discussing nuclear dangers and how de-alerting can reduce them, was released at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

For more information and a free video, contact: Back from the Brink Campaign, c/o 205 - 310 E. Center, Pocatello, Idaho USA 83201. Email: <srabb@earthlink.net> Web Site: <www.dealert.com>

Source: Arjun Makhijani, President, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, 204 - 6935 Laurel Ave., Takoma Park, Maryland 20912 US. Email: <arjun@ieer.org> Web site: <www.ieer.org>
A Scottish judge has allowed three anti-nuclear activists to walk free on charges of damaging a Trident nuclear submarine after she said the weapons were illegal under international law.

The CND campaigners were accused of attacking a barge and laboratory equipment at the Faslane Naval Base near Lochgoilhead, Argyll, Scotland. But a jury at Greenock Sheriff Court was ordered to acquit the women after Sheriff Margaret Gimblett ruled they had a right to “disarm” the base.

The three women, Angela Zelter, 48, Ellen Moxley, 45, and Bodil Ulla Roder, 45, faced three charges of maliciously damaging equipment at the base.

There were cheers and applause as the women walked free from the court after the trial which lasted four-and-a-half weeks. They had been held on remand at Cornton Vale Women’s Prison since their arrest at the Clydeside base on June 8. The women were arrested after boarding a barge that was part of the Trident installation.

They had been charged with maliciously damaging the vessel “Maytime,” stealing two inflatable life rafts and damaging equipment in an on-board laboratory. The equipment was thrown overboard into Loch Goil before Ministry of Defence police arrested them.

But Sheriff Gimblett said she accepted the argument put forward by defence advocate John Mayer, who said Trident was illegal under international law and the women were acting simply to prevent a crime.

Court of Justice Mr. Mayer said a ruling by the International Court of Justice in 1996 made Trident and all nuclear weapons illegal. He told the court that the women had committed a crime but were acting to prevent other crimes from taking place and so, under Scottish law, should be acquitted.

Addressing the activists after the jury had delivered a formal verdict, the sheriff told them they should not regard this as meaning they would be able to carry out such actions recklessly. “I made it clear that the courts do not allow crimes to be committed to prevent other crimes except in very special circumstances,” she said.

“There were such circumstances in this particular case and the same circumstances may not apply to anyone who carries out actions similar to those carried out at “Maytime” in June. “You do so at your peril — be very careful.”

Ellen Moxley said the sheriff’s actions were “not unexpected.” She told BBC Radio Scotland: “We’ve been working very, very hard to get international laws accepted in Scotland. This was part of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and for the first time it has been recognised as applying to Trident in Scotland.”

However, she said it would now be up to campaigners to decide whether or not to escalate their “nonviolent action” in the light of the sheriff’s ruling but stressed that it had not been viewed as opening the floodgates on further activity.


For more information, contact: Trident Ploughshares 2000, 42 - 46 Bethel Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 1NR, UK. Tel.: 44-01603-611953; Fax: 44-01603-633174; Web Site: <www.gn.apc.org/tp2000/> Email: <tp2000@gn.apc.org> Coulport campsite: Tel. 44-01436-850448 (Mobile: 0777-5711-054); Jane Tallents, 44-01436-679194.
The Sixteen Known Threats to Use Nuclear Weapons

By David R. Morgan, National President, Veterans Against Nuclear Arms.

During the 39 years of the Cold War, the U.S. led the nuclear arms race, repeatedly threatened to use nuclear weapons and brought civilization to the brink of destruction on several occasions. This is an appalling record, but there is no way to show that any other great power with the same advantages, would have acted any better.

The very dangerous crises of the Cold War, their threats distorted by propaganda at the time, are now almost totally forgotten. The role of the military establishment that led us into these crises remains unquestioned, its prestige untarnished.

Until these events are widely understood, the great dangers of present policies will not be questioned and discussed. Through the U.S. Freedom of Information law, the public can inform itself of the way nuclear weapons threatened U.S. and world security.

PERIOD 1 (1945-1949):
US Nuclear Weapon Policy

1945 was a pivotal year in world history. In May, WWII ended with the defeat of Germany, mainly by the USSR, U.S. and U.K. On July 16, the first atomic test explosion took place. On August 6 and 8, Hiroshima and Nagasaki were destroyed by atomic bombs. The U.S. rapidly showed that it was prepared to use this new ultra-destructive weapon, in the same way as conventional weapons. Truman believed the USSR would never be able to make an atomic bomb. He threatened the USSR with nuclear weapons only ten months after WWII. The American monopoly of atomic power lasted barely four years.

(1) Iran I

1946

Threat to use N-weapons by: U.S.

Target: USSR
Crisis started: March 1946
Crisis ended: 48 hours after Truman's ultimatum
Threat stated/implied: Stated

Until these events are widely understood, the great dangers of present policies will not be questioned and discussed.

At issue in crisis: British pre-war domination of Iran was challenged after the war by the Soviets.
Outcome: Soviets removed their troops in 24 hours. Three months later, the U.S. presented the Baruch Plan, for the control of atomic energy. Soviet rejection of this plan must now be viewed in light of their experience of U.S. “atomic control” in the IRAN I crisis over Azerbaijan.

(2) Yugoslavia

1946

Threat to use N-weapons by: U.S.
Target: Yugoslavia?
Crisis started: November 1946
Crisis ended: November 1946
Threat stated/implied: Implied
At issue in crisis: (1) U.S. military aircraft shot down over Yugoslavia; (2) U.S. right to fly over Yugoslavia; (3) Greece, a strategic base in the Balkans.
Outcome: No more U.S. military aircraft shot down over Yugoslavia.

At issue in crisis: Control of Berlin, Germany and Europe.
Outcome: Last crisis where U.S. had a monopoly of the atomic bomb.

PERIOD 2 (1949-1962):
Nuke Them Before They Can Nuke Us

The detonation of the first Soviet atomic bomb on Sept. 3, 1949, was a great shock to U.S. leadership, who had expected at least a ten year nuclear weapon advantage. This was followed almost immediately, in Oct. 1949, by the victory of Mao Tsetung’s communist forces in China. These were major strategic setbacks for Washington.

NSC 68 (April 14, 1950) was the policy response by the U.S. National Security Council. It called for: (1) Containment of the socialist bloc (U.S.S.R and China) with a 6,000 mile chain of nuclear bases, extending from Europe, through the Middle East and Southeast Asia to Japan and Alaska; (2) Massive re-armament: Building the H-bomb, stockpiling A-bombs and building a long-range bomber fleet.

“The date the Soviets possess an atomic stockpile of 200 bombs would be a critical date for the U.S.” (NSC 68). This anticipated date, known as “A-Day,” was in 1954. Presidents Truman and Eisenhower came under very heavy pressure in the National Security Council, especially from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to launch nuclear war before “A-Day.”

(3) Berlin I

1948

Threat to use N-weapons by: U.S.
Target: 24 Soviet cities
Crisis started: June 24, 1948, Berlin blockade
Threat stated/implied: Stated
At issue in crisis: Control of Berlin, Germany and Europe.
Outcome: Last crisis where U.S. had a monopoly of the atomic bomb.
Crisis ended: July 1953 - Armistice at Panmunjon

Threat stated/implied: Truman: “There has always been active consideration of its use.” Eisenhower: “To keep the attack from becoming costly, it was clear we would have to use atomic weapons.”

Outcome: South Korea secured. U.S. commits to defence of S. Korea and maintains large forces there.

(5) Viet Nam I 1954
Threat to use N-weapons by: U.S.
Target: Viet Nam, China and USSR
Crisis started: March 8, 1954; 3,000 French troops surrounded at DBP.
Crisis ended: June 19, 1954
Threat stated/implied: Implied
At issue in crisis: “A-Day” the last day on which the U.S. could launch a nuclear attack on USSR without fear of a response. The fall of the Vietnam “domino” was probably a pretext.

(6) China I 1954
Threat to use N-weapons by: U.S.
Target: China and USSR
Crisis started: Sept. 1954
Crisis ended: May 1, 1955
Threat stated/implied: Stated
Outcome: (1) Chiang having almost provoked war between U.S. and China, will use this gambit again. No effective U.S. moves were made to prevent this; (2) Crude provocations by Chiang (and his U.S. allies) brought China close to atomic destruction.

(7) Suez 1956
Threat to use N-weapons by: USSR and then U.S.
Target: London, Paris (U.S. and USSR)
Crisis started: Oct. 29, 1956: Israel invades Egypt
Crisis ended: Nov. 6, 1956: Britain and France obey UN ceasefire.
Threat stated/implied: Stated
At issue in crisis: Egypt’s right to control the Suez Canal. Britain and France see Egyptian control of canal as threat to their oil supply.
Outcome: A strategic disaster for the west in the Middle East: (1) The Suez Canal was blocked and Europe’s oil cut off; (2) Soviet influence rapidly expands in Middle East; (3) U.S. shows that it will not back imperial adventures by U.K. and France. The U.S. masters western strategy now.

(8) China II 1958
Threat to use N-weapons by: U.S.
Target: China, USSR
Crisis started: August 24, 1958 - China begins shelling Quemoy-Matsu
Crisis ended: October (?) 1958 - Shelling ends
Threat stated/implied: Stated
At issue in crisis: Chiang’s right to mobilize armies on Quemoy & Matsu, 8 miles from the coast of China — a crude provocation. (Permitted by U.S.)
Outcome: (1) First time a large section of the U.S. public denies Washington its support in a nuclear crisis; (2) Losing U.S. support, Chiang quits his crude provocations.

(9) Berlin II 1959
Threat to use N-weapons by: U.S.
Target: USSR
Crisis started: November 1958
Crisis ended: March 20(?), 1959
Threat stated/implied: Stated
At issue in crisis: Status of Berlin
Outcome: Khruschev and Eisenhower met at Camp David, Maryland, in Sept. 1959. Each wished a reasonable solution on Berlin, but their moderate positions were heavily opposed by beligerent Democrats in the U.S., hardliners in Moscow and Mao in China calling for wars of national liberation and accusing Khruschev of appeasement. The status of Berlin remained unclear and dangerous.

(10) Berlin III 1961
Threat to use N-weapons by: U.S. and USSR
Target: U.S. and USSR
Crisis started: July 13, 1961
Crisis ended: Oct. 17, 1961
Threat stated/implied: Implied
At issue in crisis: Status of Berlin.
Outcome: Berlin issue de-fused again.
Kennedy and Khruschev’s improved contact is critical in the much more serious Cuban crisis of 1962.

(11) Cuba 1962
Threat to use N-weapons by: U.S. and USSR
Target: U.S. and USSR
Crisis ends: Oct. 28 - Khruschev agrees to remove missiles
Threat stated/implied: Stated
At issue in crisis: (1) Security of Cuba; (2) Security of U.S.; (3) Right of USSR to match U.S. medium range N-missile threat.

PERIOD 3 (1962-1969):
Scared Straight

The Cuban missile crisis brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. It brought the reality of nuclear war home to the public and to the superpower leaders. It scared them straight.

On Aug. 4, 1963, Kennedy and Khruschev signed the Test Ban Treaty, banning atmospheric nuclear tests. An opportunity for further improved relations between the leaders ended 3 months later with Kennedy’s assassination. Khruschev was ousted 11 months later, the day before China exploded its first atomic bomb.

The Vietnam War became a major U.S. involvement following the Gulf of Tonkin “incident” on Aug. 7, 1964. The opportunity for nuclear arms control and reductions, faded during this period as the Viet Nam War...
escalated and the development of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems accelerated. This nuclear crisis-free seven-year period ended with Operation “Duck-hook,” Nixon’s secret plan to end the Viet Nam war by threatening to use nuclear weapons.


The 1969 Decision by Nixon administration to MIRV ICBMs (i.e., to place multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles, or warheads, on U.S. intercontinental ballistic missiles) was a serious arms race escalation. It meant that one ICBM “bus” could now carry as many as 14 warhead “passengers,” each of which could be directed to its own target. A submarine with 24 Trident MIRVd missiles could thus hit 336 targets.

Warhead accuracy improved greatly also and the possibility of a “First Strike” surprise attack that could knock out all of the enemy’s delivery systems seemed within reach. These developments culminated in crisis #16 “First Strike,” the most dangerous period in human history.

(12) Viet Nam II 1969

Threat to use N-weapons by: U.S. Target: Vietnam and USSR
Crisis ended: Oct. 29, 1969 — DEFCON 1 threat fails
Threat stated/implied: Very strongly implied
At issue in crisis: U.S. failure to conquer Vietnam
Outcome: (1) A clear defeat by Viet Nam for Escalation Dominance theory; (2) A measure of the power of massive public protests.

(13) Jordan 1970

Threat to use N-weapons by: U.S. Target: USSR
Crisis started: Sept. 15, 1970
Crisis ended: Sept. 30, 1970
Threat stated/implied: Implied
At issue in crisis: Control of Jordan
Outcome: PLO defeated in Jordan; No Soviet involvement.

(14) Israel 1973

Threat to use N-weapons by: U.S. Target: USSR
Crisis started: Oct. 6, 1973 - Egypt & Syria attack Israel on Yom Kippur
Crisis ended: Oct. 25, 1973
Threat stated/implied: Implied
Outcome: Soviets soon after describe U.S. response in this crisis as “absurd” and U.S. speculations on Soviet intentions as “fantastic,” indicating that the use of Escalation Dominance by the U.S. to always have its way in any confrontation, was a dangerous policy.

(15) Iran II 1980

Threat to use N-weapons by: U.S. Target: Iran, USSR
Crisis ended: June: B-52 Arabian Sea flights end.
Threat stated/implied: Implied
At issue in crisis: (1) U.S. loss of control over Iran as a strategic Cold War base and major oil producer; (2) Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and possibility of a Soviet move into Iran.
Outcome: Sept. 22, 1980: Iraq attacks Iran with the later revealed support of U.S., Britain and USSR(!). Over one million killed in this war. There was no UN action against Iraq’s aggression, which suited all major powers. Iran is undefeated and Islamic fundamentalism gained a powerful base. Confident of western tolerance, Iran invades Kuwait and triggers the Gulf War in 1991.

(16) First Strike 1983

Threat to use N-weapons by: U.S. Target: USSR
Crisis started: Dec. 1, 1983 Ramstein, W. Germany. 9 Pershing IIs delivered
Crisis ended: Nov. 19, 1985, Geneva, when Gorbachev and Reagan meet.
Threat stated/implied: Implied at very great risk.
At issue in crisis: U.S. preparation for first strike capability.
Outcome: Worst crisis of all ends.

Sources
NDP Policy on the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

By Svend Robinson, MP Burnaby-Douglas & NDP Foreign Affairs Critic.

New Democrats have long challenged Canada’s reliance on NATO and have always supported the abolition of nuclear weapons. I fought hard to have Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee study this issue last year. I was pleased that recommendations outlined in the committee’s report were helpful in advancing the nuclear weapons abolition agenda.

However, I remain concerned that the Liberal government has failed to live up to the committee’s recommendations. Despite Foreign Affairs Minister Axworthy’s posturing that he challenged NATO to review its nuclear doctrine, the fact is that even a decade after the end of the Cold War, Axworthy has never called for NATO to adopt a No First Use policy for nuclear weapons.

Despite Liberal MPs on the committee declaring that burning MOX fuel is unfeasible, the government has moved full-steam ahead to import this fuel, totally ignoring increased public opposition.

Most glaring of all is the Liberal government’s complete arrogance this summer in expropriating the Nanoose Bay torpedo-testing range from BC. The Liberals are more interested in catering to the Pentagon than to Canadians who want a nuclear weapons free country.

Source: Letter, October 1999.

NDP Resolution

Whereas the NDP recognizes that nuclear weapons continue to represent the most serious threat to world peace and security and New Democrats have always been firmly committed to the abolition of nuclear weapons;

Whereas a 1998 opinion poll carried out for the Canadian Peace Alliance showed that 92% of Canadians support the government taking a leadership role in negotiations to abolish nuclear weapons;

Whereas rather than showing leadership on this issue, the federal government has moved to expropriate from BC the Nanoose Bay testing range to allow continued torpedo testing by American nuclear-powered and possibly nuclear-armed warships;

Whereas the Liberal government has indicated that they intend to ignore a recommendation of the multi-party Foreign Affairs Committee report opposing the burning of MOX fuel in Canada;

Be it resolved that the NDP:

(1) urges the Canadian government to give immediate notice of termination of the agreement between Canada and the U.S. establishing a torpedo testing range at Nanoose Bay; and that the government work with local stakeholders including community representatives, labour, business, environmentalists and aboriginal peoples to establish an environmentally sustainable job creating alternative in the Nanoose Bay area;

(2) calls on NATO, as a first step toward eliminating its nuclear arsenal, to adopt a policy of “No-First-Use” of nuclear weapons and to “de-alert” all active warheads, and calls on other nuclear capable states to adopt the same policies;

(3) demands that the Canadian government not contribute to anti-ballistic missile defence programs;

(4) urges all countries to sign the Nuclear-Non-Proliferation-Treaty and for nuclear armed states to live up disarmament goals of this treaty;

(5) supports the goals of Abolition 2000 and will work in solidarity with organizations sharing these goals to raise awareness and promote education;

(6) supports the call to conclude a nuclear weapons disarmament convention;

(7) opposes the environmentally unsound and undesirable burning of MOX fuel in Canada;

(8) calls on the Liberal government to end all low-level flight training over Innu lands in Labrador;

(9) reaffirms our policy that Canada should withdraw from NATO and NORAD, and work to reform and strengthen the United Nations;

(10) calls on the Canadian government to renounce all Canadian reliance on the nuclear umbrella and bring to an end any Canadian support for the nuclear weapons possessed by other countries.

The NDP calls on the Canadian government to renounce all Canadian reliance on the nuclear umbrella and bring to an end any Canadian support for the nuclear weapons possessed by other countries.

Source: Resolution passed at the New Democratic Party Convention, August 1999.
In April 1996, the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (CNANW) was created to facilitate Canadian work on the abolition of nuclear weapons. The network works in cooperation with the global Abolition 2000 campaign. The CNANW functions as a forum for information-sharing and cooperation between the groups and individuals working for abolition, and not as a separate organization in itself. The activities of the network are coordinated by the Contact Group, which is composed of approximately a dozen Canadian peace groups.

Any organization or individual agreeing to help build Canadian support for an international agreement to establish a timetable for the abolition of nuclear weapons can be listed as a supporter of the CNANW. Support for the network does not imply endorsement of all the activities undertaken by network members. Supporters are strongly encouraged, however, to participate in the work of the CNANW, sharing information with the rest of the network and coordinating their efforts with those of other groups in the network working for the common goal of nuclear abolition.

Canadians have worked for the elimination of nuclear weapons since the beginning of the atomic age. Despite their efforts, and the expectations of millions, nuclear weapons continue to threaten all of us. Continued public pressure is needed to encourage governments to abolish nuclear weapons.

Canada still supports nuclear weapons
The Canadian government does not have nuclear weapons, opposes nuclear proliferation and officially supports disarmament. However, the Canadian government:
✓ Continues to threaten the use of nuclear weapons (by its allies) in the event of war;
✓ Has agreed to permit the deployment of nuclear-armed bombers and nuclear support forces at Canadian airfields during crises;
✓ Provides airspace and low-level flight ranges for nuclear bomber training;
✓ Hosts visits by nuclear-powered and potentially nuclear-armed submarines;
✓ Maintains communication sites for nuclear forces;
✓ Produces and exports components for nuclear weapon delivery vehicles, like bombers and submarines;
✓ Politically and diplomatically supports U.S. and NATO nuclear policies, including the option of the first use of nuclear weapons.

What You Can Do
✓ Sign the Abolition Statement and send it to the CNANW clearing-house;
✓ Link the CNANW web site to your web site;
✓ Distribute copies of CNANW's pamphlet;
✓ Ask your community group, church or union to support the work of network members;
✓ Ask your MP to support the abolition of nuclear weapons;
✓ Circulate a petition urging support for the abolition of all nuclear weapons. Ask your MP to present it to Parliament.

Source: Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons' web site: <watserv1.uwaterloo.ca/%7Eplough/cnanw/cnanw.html>

To subscribe to the CNANW electronic discussion list send an e-mail to <majordomo@watserv1.uwaterloo.ca> with the message “subscribe abolition <subscriber’s e-mail address>” in the body of the text.

An Evening with Svend Robinson!

Thursday, February 24, 2000, 7 p.m.
30 Cleary Ave. (First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa)

Svend will speak on global issues including the abolition of nuclear weapons, links between trade and human rights, and the role of the peace movement.

After his talk there will be a reception to socialize and sample a variety of home-made desserts!

This event is being organized by the Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade, with the support of the Peace and Disarmament subcommittee of the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa. Admission is free, although donations are certainly welcome! (There will also be a silent auction. Please let us know if you have items that you’d like to donate.)

For more information, please contact:
Ria Heynen at 613-828-8468.
Canadian Complicity in Preparations for Nuclear War

By Dr. John M. Clearwater, author of Canadian Nuclear Weapons and U.S. Nuclear Weapons in Canada.

It is time to change Canada's anti-nuclear facade by adopting policies and undertaking activities which demonstrate a clear support for the 1996 International Court of Justice decision, the Canberra Commission process, and general proposals for diminishing reliance on nuclear weapons and the means necessary for producing nuclear weapons.

**Weapons Testing**

Canada must end all nuclear weapons system testing inside Canada, on land, in the air, and at sea. The CANUS [Canada-U.S.] Test and Evaluation Agreement of 1983 must be altered to explicitly forbid the testing of weapons systems which can utilize nuclear weapons or which have been part of nuclear weapons systems in the past. No hardware or software should be designed, tested, built or deployed in Canada which are nuclear or which are a component of nuclear weapons systems, or which support nuclear weapons systems, or which would be part of an ABM system. In addition, Canada must renounce and dismantle, or call for the removal of any system meant to support nuclear war-fighting on the part of other NATO members in Canada.

**NORAD**

There are no plans to re-equip NORAD forces with nuclear weapons. However, NORAD is very closely integrated with U.S. Space Command and is therefore increasingly involved with the U.S. Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) program. In the long term, this might bring nuclear weapons or systems used against strategic nuclear weapons back into the NORAD arsenal.

Canada, by virtue of being the other partner in NORAD, is intimately involved in the U.S. BMD program. Some 30 of the 110 Canadians at NORAD HQ in Colorado are now serving with U.S. Space Command, a group engaged in BMD activities.

**NATO**

With the very real end of the fully operational and multi-faceted nuclear commitment to NATO Europe, there is hardly a need for the Canadian government to hold up the fig leaf of alliance cohesion as the rationale for continued adherence to a dying NATO nuclear policy. Since there are fewer and fewer nuclear weapons in NATO, and since this trend appears to be a continuing process begun in 1991 by President Bush, Canada can safely declare that it will no longer participate in the nuclear affairs of NATO. With less than 150 gravity bombs left in the NATO arsenal, the nuclear policies of NATO have been made hollow by the actions of the U.S. government. Canada would not be striking out on a bold new path, but rather re-aligning policies with a new reality.

Canada must now pledge not to undertake nuclear or nuclear-related military activities within the NATO context. Canada gave up nuclear weapons in NATO over 25 years ago; now it is time to give up the pretension of participation.

**Overflights**

Overflights of Canada by nuclear-armed aircraft began in 1949-50 with the deployment of continental-based U.S. strategic bombers to the UK, Alaska and Goose Bay. Since that time, a cabinet process has been in place for allowing nuclear overflights of Canada. In addition to the armed overflights, there are also regular training flights by U.S. Air Force bombers in various air corridors inside Canada. In the past, this has included the B-47, B-52 and B-1B bombers. These
aircraft are not armed, but are an integral part of the nuclear war-fighting capability of the U.S. It is time for this to be terminated. Canada hosts no ICBMs or SLBMs, and there is no reason that Canadian airspace should continue to host intercontinental bombers training for nuclear war or deploying for that purpose.

Another aspect of the overflight problem with which the Canadian government must deal is overflights of non-military nuclear materials. Examples include the use of Canadian airspace for the transport of nuclear cores for British and French atomic testing in the Pacific. This went on as recently as the last French nuclear test in the Pacific. The Canadian government can make a positive impact on non-proliferation by banning such transportation across Canada. There is no need for Canada to make it easier for bomb-builders and proliferants.

**Naval Visits**

Each year the Canadian government allows a great number of ships into our ports and waterways. The first 135 days of 1997 saw 7 visits from nuclear-powered vessels. In November 1996 there were six port visits made by U.S. Navy nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarines.

With the change in U.S. nuclear weapons deployment policy, the only naval vessels now carrying nuclear weapons are the ballistic missile submarines, and visits of these ships are fairly rare. There are basically no nuclear-armed ships visiting Canadian ports. However, there are still a significant number of nuclear-powered vessels visiting Canada. As long as the U.S. Navy continues to field an exclusively nuclear-powered submarine fleet, any submarine visit to Canada will by definition be a nuclear visit. Given that the U.S. Navy is generally a conventionally-powered fleet, a change in Canadian policy to disallow nuclear vessels would only affect the U.S. submarine force and a few aircraft carriers. There is no reason that ballistic missile submarines should be in Canadian ports, as their task is to be hidden for up to 90 days on long-range patrols. The nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarines, although they do not currently carry nuclear weapons, are still an environmental hazard, and unnecessary to Canadian defence. U.S. submarines are a greater threat to Canadian sovereignty than they are an aid to Canadian defence.

Canada can no longer allow nuclear-armed or powered vessels to visit the ports of Vancouver, Esquimalt, Nanoose Bay or Halifax/Dartmouth/Shearwater. It is time to take a strong position by disallowing both nuclear-armed ships, of which there are an ever-decreasing number, and nuclear-powered ships, of which there are fairly steady numbers, from entering Canadian harbours. A firm policy supporting the ends of the non-proliferation regime, and ensuring the continued health of local populations must be implemented.

**ABM Treaty**

Although signed by the USSR and USA in May 1972, the ABM Treaty retains its significance in a denuclearizing and increasingly multipolar, post-Cold War world. Canada cannot afford to participate in any venture that would call into question the status of the ABM Treaty or which would directly or indirectly threaten its very existence.

The ABM Treaty is a significant part of the nuclear relationship, even in the post-Cold War world. The original importance of the Treaty was that it codified the place of the USSR in the nuclear balance vis-a-vis the technologically more advanced USA. Today, the regime is even more important as arsenals are reduced and increased reliance placed on fewer and fewer strategic weapons systems and total deployments. A limited system in either the U.S. or Russia would do nothing to actually impede the ability of either to inflict substantial damage on the other society in case of global thermonuclear war. However, should the U.S. move down the road to terminating the ABM Treaty, the Russians, as they have in the past, would surely follow with an expanded limited system of their own. This shield would in fact be aimed towards not the U.S., but towards the Chinese with their very limited arsenal. The Chinese would then see the threat to their strategic forces, and would probably choose to increase their arsenal by building additional ICBMs and SLBMs. This in turn would trigger greatly increased military spending and weapons acquisition throughout Asia as most other countries reacted to the increased Chinese weapons deployment.

The Canadian people have no interest in promoting more of an arms race in Asia than already exists. In addition to not participating in any ABM projects, the Canadian Government must actively lobby the U.S. government to terminate projects that threaten the ABM Treaty.

**Fissile Materials**

It is time for the Canadian Government to take firm hold of the nuclear industry and completely end the sale and export of fissile materials. Canadian fissile products shipped outside the country can and do directly contribute to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Even small amounts of fissile material are important in the research phase of the building of atomic weapons. Canada cannot afford to be party to proliferating activities, especially in a time of decreased nuclear arsenals. It is time to take hold of the strict interpretation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Canada must embrace the principle that activities that produce long-term garbage for which there is no safe and adequate method of disposal should not be pursued. Canadian industry continued to produce massive amounts of radioactive waste that cannot be dealt with, stored or safely kept. If you cannot clean up your garbage, don’t engage in the activity!

The only exception to this complete ban would be for fissile products used for medical treatment and medical experimental purposes.

**Source:** Presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, February 8, 1998.
The Canadian government declared in its formal response to the Parliamentary Committee’s report on nuclear weapons that it wanted to devalue the political significance of nuclear weapons and work with the New Agenda Coalition in pursuing shared nuclear disarmament objectives.

This policy was tested this fall at the UN Disarmament Committee. An analysis of how Canada voted on nuclear disarmament resolutions shows that the government is still not prepared to take a forthright position on action to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

The centre-piece resolution was submitted by the New Agenda Coalition (NAC)(Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden), which was formed last year to seek an unequivocal commitment from the Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) to commence negotiations leading to a program for the elimination of nuclear weapons. The NAC expressed deep concern at the deterioration of the non-proliferation regime and the spectre of new nuclear arms races.

Canada abstained on NAC’s resolution at the 1998 session of the First Committee, claiming that the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade had not yet completed its review of Canada’s nuclear weapons policies. The Committee, when it reported, recommended that “the Government must encourage the nuclear-weapon states to demonstrate their unequivocal commitment to enter into and conclude negotiations leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons.” This was, in fact, the content of Operative Paragraph 1 of the NAC resolution.

This year, NAC returned with a resolution that was softened in order to appeal to NATO states, twelve of whom had abstained last year. The core of the resolution was contained in the new Operative Paragraph 1:

“Calls upon the NWS to make an unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the speedy and total elimination of their nuclear arsenals and to engage without delay in an accelerated process of negotiations, thus achieving nuclear disarmament, to which they are committed under the NPT.”

NAC and the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs went into extended negotiations on the text. NAC agreed to remove the word “speedy” to get Canada’s affirmative vote. The Foreign Affairs Minister gave his assent for a yes vote. The Defence Minister, whose department maintains a close link with the Pentagon, which is adamantly opposed to comprehensive nuclear negotiations, was opposed. The matter went to the Prime Minister, who took the position that Canada should not be leading a breakout of NATO states into the yes column.

Thus, Canada once again abstained on the NAC resolution. With Turkey and the Czech Republic, a new member of NATO, switching their previous no to an abstention, the total number of NATO states abstaining was 14. The other five — the U.S., the U.K. and France, known as the P3, along with two other new NATO states, Hungary and Poland — voted no.

Canada’s explanation-of-vote was very revealing. After praising the NAC resolution, the Canadian representative said: “The NWS and their partners and alliances need to be engaged if the goals of the NAC resolution are to be achieved.” This was a tacit admission that Canada’s hands are tied in voting for nuclear disarmament as long as U.S. and NATO leadership hold that nuclear weapons are “essential” to their military doctrine.

To drive home the point that the Canadian government considers itself not free to vote principled positions on nuclear disarmament, Canada also abstained on a new resolution introduced by China and Russia on the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. The ABM Treaty was established by the U.S. and the former Soviet Union in 1972 to limit defences against nuclear weapons in an effort to slow down the development of new nuclear weapons. The ABM Treaty has long been considered as a cornerstone for maintaining global peace and security and strategic stability.

Canada has always been an ardent supporter of the ABM Treaty, but
now the U.S. wants to either weaken or abrogate that treaty in order to deploy a new national missile defence system. Billions of dollars are being spent on the development of this system, and President Clinton is scheduled to make a decision next June whether to start deployment.

Both Russia and China have protested vigorously to the U.S., claiming that such deployment will trigger new nuclear arms races, since neither country can accept the prospect of U.S. unilateral invincibility. Canada well recognizes that a missile defence system will de-stabilize the world community, which is why this country did not join in supporting the aborted, Reagan-inspired Strategic Defense Initiative of the 1980s. Now the U.S. is back and wants Canada’s support.

The Russian-Chinese resolution called for continued efforts to strengthen the ABM Treaty and “to preserve its integrity and validity so that it remains a cornerstone in maintaining global strategic stability and world peace and in promoting further strategic nuclear arms reductions.” The resolution went on to urge countries to refrain from the deployment of such systems and “not to provide a base for such a defence.”

If Canada seriously intended to uphold the ABM Treaty, it would have voted yes. Even France voted yes. The U.S. voted no. Since there were 73 abstentions, Canada had plenty of company, but gave away a principled position.

A consequence of U.S. determination to develop the technology for a missile defence system was Canada’s loss of consensus for its traditional resolution calling for a committee at the Conference on Disarmament to negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. China balked on the grounds that it would need new fissile material for nuclear weapons to counter the U.S. missile defence system. Having abstained on the ABM resolution, Canada was not in a position to argue with China and withdrew its resolution. The prospect now for a fissile material ban is practically zero.

The annual Malaysian resolution revealed that Canada has not moved away from ambivalence about the elimination of nuclear weapons, the government’s new policy notwithstanding. The resolution called for endorsement of the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that nations have an obligation to conclude negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control. Canada voted yes to this paragraph. But the next paragraph, calling for the commencement of “multilateral negotiations in 2000 leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention” drew a no. Then Canada abstained on the resolution as a whole.

A similar resolution calling for immediate negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament “on a phased program of nuclear disarmament” was turned down by Canada, which has customarily voted against time-bound programs for disarmament. This policy was turned on its head when Canada supported the package accompanying the Indefinite Extension of the NPT, which stipulated that a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty be achieved by 1996.

Canada, of course, voted for the resolution endorsing the CTBT and urging states which have not yet ratified the CTBT to accelerate their ratification processes. Even the U.S. voted for this resolution.

Canada also joined the great majority of states in voting for the Japanese resolution reaffirming the importance of the NPT and calling for “the determined pursuit by the NWS of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons, and by all states of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.” The key word here is “ultimate.” Canada votes to uphold the “ultimate” elimination of nuclear weapons but resists negotiations that would lead, in a measured way, toward that goal. By insisting on the maintenance of nuclear weapons, the NWS have manifestly demonstrated their insincerity in implementing Article VI of the NPT.

Canada’s continued weak voting record on nuclear disarmament resolutions — the rhetoric of the government’s policy notwithstanding — is robbing this country of credibility in the nuclear disarmament field. Canada proclaims that it must take a “balanced” approach between its desire for nuclear disarmament and its loyalty to NATO. But there is nothing “balanced” in its voting record. The record shows clearly that Canada refuses to support any resolution that specifies immediate action on a comprehensive approach to ridding the world of nuclear weapons. Canada follows the U.S. and NATO line on the tough nuclear disarmament resolutions.

Canadians who followed the parliamentary hearings on nuclear weapons issues and who took hope in the government’s response had a right to expect that Canada would take bolder positions at the UN. It is true that Canada took a step forward in urging NATO to review its nuclear weapons policies. But this is only calling for a review. When it comes to voting for comprehensive negotiations, Canada says no or abstains. The failure to support the New Agenda resolution is a bitter disappointment to Canadians who expected that this year, in the face of the crippling of the non-proliferation regime, Canada would at least support a moderate resolution.

The failure to do so in the face of a highly-informed public opinion as contained in statements by the Canadian Pugwash Group, the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, the UN Association of Canada and the...
Simons Foundation Strategy Consultation indicates the government’s capitulation to the hard-line Cold War elements that still drive U.S. and NATO nuclear policies. Since there is a strong public opinion in Canada to abolish nuclear weapons and virtually no public opinion to maintain nuclear weapons, the question of the subversion of democracy is opened up by the government’s continual refusal to call forthrightly for an end to nuclear weapons for the sake of all humanity.

The failure to move ahead through the NAC resolution means that Canada is crippled, going into the NPT 2000 Review. Last spring, Canada offered the outline of a new set of principles and objectives to shore up the NPT. These principles and objectives are confined to the step-by-step approach, which in the thirty years of the existence of the NPT has produced a situation where there are virtually as many nuclear weapons now as when the NPT came into existence.

As a result of the UN voting, it now seems that Canada will not be able to support the growing demand for the NWS to make an unequivocal commitment to the elimination of nuclear weapons through negotiations. Canada, which holds the NPT at the centre of its policies, will find itself on the margins of the debate — all because it refuses to throw off the intimidation of the Western nuclear powers.

In the Japanese resolution, a paragraph: “Encourages the construction to the hard-line Cold War...

- In Memory of Terry Cottam

We are deeply saddened to announce his tragic passing, at the age of 41 on November 5, 1999 in Ottawa. Terry’s passion, commitment and dedication; his quiet, humble and selfless manner, and his contributions to struggles for dignity and human rights will be sadly missed by countless individuals and numerous groups, some of which he helped found. He was a board member of Friends of the Rainforest and a supporter of the Green Party and other environmental movements.

He was a key organizer of awareness campaigns for Burmese democracy and human rights. He led the successful boycott of Petro-Canada and initiated the successful boycott Pepsi campaign. He worked with Canadian Friends of Burma and the East Timor Alert Network. Terry’s active interest in Southeast Asia grew out of experiences he had in that region with Canadian Crossroads International.

He was a founding member of the Centretown and Ottawa-wide barter/exchange program called LETS. His last passion was raising local and national awareness about Y2K community preparedness.

He drew on his strong writing, good layout sense and phenomenal attention to detail to promote the many issues upon which he focused his tireless efforts. He wrote regularly for the Peace and Environment News, had countless letters published in the mainstream press, and played a central role in all three editions of the Canadian Guide to Working and Living Overseas.

He inspired many who knew him, and many he never met, to connect with his vision of a better Earth. We are richer for having known him.

Source: Web site maintained by Paul Gross <paulgross.com/terrycottam/>

**COAT’s VIDEO documentary:**

**“Mothers’ Day at the War Show”**

narrated by Marion Dewar (former Mayor of Ottawa)

“Air shows” are at the forefront of a cultural epidemic in which militarism, violence and war technology are glorified and romanticised as family fun and entertainment.

The video juxtaposes numerous contradictory images and interviews:

- war planes doing aerial stunts at the National Capital Air Show
- Pentagon footage of these same kinds of planes bombing Iraq
- Iraqi children’s paintings depicting these war planes in action
- interviews with young air show spectators and Iraqi war victims
- destruction wreaked upon the civilian infrastructure of Iraq
- former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark in Iraq in 1991

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Did Minister Axworthy Deserve his Peace Award?

By J. McKinnon

Lloyd Axworthy received an award for Distinguished World Leadership in the Service of Peace and Disarmament. Did Minister Axworthy deserve this award? Or, did he deserve an angry protest outside his award dinner? Some people think he deserves an award. (See the side bar.)

Others, however, feel that Minister Axworthy deserves protests for his positions on various foreign policies that impact on peace and disarmament. For example:

- Minister Axworthy assured the Indonesia government that Canadian protesters would not get close to President Suharto during the APEC conference.
- Minister Axworthy supported and pushed for NATO expansion into Eastern Europe.
- Minister Axworthy supported the U.S. bombing of Sudan and Afghanistan.
- Minister Axworthy continues to support the economic blockade against Iraq despite the fact that one million people have died as a result.
- Minister Axworthy was a cheerleader for the NATO war that wreaked destruction on the economy and environment of Yugoslavia and the deaths of thousands of civilians.
- Minister Axworthy was “concerned about particular incidents in East Timor.” However, he has never spoken out against the Indonesian government.
- Minister Axworthy is a member of the Booster Club for the World Trade Organization, the North American Free Trade Agreement and the International Monetary Fund.

Source: Email, Oct 3, 1999.

The Simons Foundation, in partnership with the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Project Ploughshares and Simon Fraser University is convening a two-day Strategy Consultation in Vancouver on October 28 and 29, 1999, of 40 distinguished thinkers and leaders who concern themselves with nuclear weapons abolition. This consultation will bring together international lawyers, human rights specialists and strategists who have the knowledge, ability, experience and ideas to develop a strategy that will further the process of eliminating nuclear weapons. The subject of the consultation is “Developing Legal and Political Strategies to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.”

Peace and Disarmament Award

The Strategy Consultation will be held in conjunction with a dinner ceremony, on October 29th, hosted by The Simons Foundation at which The Simons Foundation Award for Distinguished World Leadership in the Service of Peace and Disarmament will be presented to the Honorable Lloyd Axworthy, Minister for Foreign Affairs for Canada for his contribution in encouraging NATO to review its nuclear weapons policy.

One hundred eminent people concerned with these issues will be invited to the dinner.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Allen Simons, President, Simons Foundation
David Krieger, President, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
Ernie Regehr, Director, Project Ploughshares
Jack Blaney, President, Simon Fraser University.

For more information, contact: The Simons Foundation, Tel.: 604-664-4516; Fax: 604-664-5377; E-mail: <ehynes@hasimons.com>

Nix the MOX Plan

With no mandate from the Canadian population or parliament, the federal government has given its go-ahead for Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) to import weapons plutonium (MOX) fuel from Russia and the United States into Canada for the purposes of a test at Chalk River, Ontario this fall.

This project is part of a larger plan to import up to 100 tons of weapons plutonium fuel to be used in CANDU reactors over the next twenty-five years.

There is mounting opposition to this controversial plan: firefighters, aboriginal leaders, city councils, mayors of the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes Region along with medical, disarmament, environmental and other public interest groups have come out against the scheme. We need your help to send a strong message to federal, provincial and municipal leaders that the plutonium fuel test at Chalk River as well as the larger plan should be scrapped.

Plutonium should be treated as a dangerous waste product to be immobilized and guarded. It should not be commercialized. Immobilization would not require transporting plutonium over long distances. Canada can send specialists to help Russia and the U.S. to deal with their plutonium problems, but we should not be bringing the problems here.

Plutonium is a highly dangerous material and the consequences of a severe transportation accident could be significant. AECL’s transportation plans for the plutonium fuel shipment include a scenario involving an “event that leads to the MOX fuel shipping package breaking open, in a severe fire, and releasing plutonium dioxide particles into the air...
The public is assumed to be near enough to the accident to breathe air contaminated with plutonium dioxide.” AECL also states that: “The potentially exposed population consists of all persons located under the plume footprint out to a downwind distance of 80 km.” This contradicts the claim made by Ralph Goodale, the Minister of Natural Resources, that the plutonium fuel “can’t ignite or burn.”

Plutonium is the most carefully guarded material on earth because it can be used to make atomic bombs. The U.S. National Academy of Sciences says that plutonium fuel should be guarded as carefully as intact nuclear weapons. Canada does not have the expertise to do so. Although the shipments will be accompanied by a security team and tracked by satellite, AECL’s transportation plans do not address the threat of criminals attempting to highjack the shipment.

Using plutonium as reactor fuel does not destroy the plutonium: up to 2/3 of the original amount of weapons plutonium remains in the spent nuclear fuel and must be guarded for tens of thousands of years.

The plutonium fuel import scheme will not contribute to nuclear disarmament. Rather, it is about propping up Canada’s declining nuclear industry. Instead of embarking upon this initiative which will aggravate Canada’s nuclear waste problems, Canada should phase out nuclear power.

The federal government should adopt the recommendation of an all-party parliamentary committee (Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, December 1998) that the plutonium fuel plan be scrapped. In spite of this, the Chrétien cabinet rejected the committee’s advice in April 1999.

Canada should be pushing for a global ban on plutonium production and use. Instead, by going along with AECL’s scheme, Canada is fostering global traffic in plutonium which will increase the risk of nuclear terrorism, nuclear accidents and nuclear weapons proliferation.

Source: Action Alert, Campaign for Nuclear Phaseout, September 15, 1999. Email: <cnp@web.net>
COAT Salutes Anti-Nuclear Activist: Cecil Muldrew!

Cecil’s commitment to work for peace arose out of his experiences during WWII. As a Flying Officer, pilot and captain of a five man crew, he did a tour of operation in Burma with the Royal Air Force.

Following the war, Cecil earned a B.Sc. and B.Ed. He worked for 34 years as a teacher and school administrator. During his career, Cecil became interested in the UN and he is now the UN Envoy for the Western Canada District Unitarian Churches. He has also been involved with the NDP since 1945.

His main interest and work, however, is nuclear abolition. His efforts are largely channelled through his role as president of the Manitoba Branch of Veterans Against Nuclear Arms (VANA). He recently represented VANA at the Hague Appeal for Peace in the Netherlands. Since returning, he has written reports and articles and has given talks to many organizations on plans for peace in the next century.

The production of VANA’s national newsletter is another of Cecil’s activities. (He always manages to include some cartoons and/or articles from Press for Conversion!). Through his work on the National Executive of the VANA’s Defence Research and Education Centre, he is bringing a large exhibit to Winnipeg in March 2000 from the Hiroshima Peace Park Museum.

Cec was instrumental in founding the Humanist Association of Manitoba and has just put together a program for the National Humanist Convention to be held in Winnipeg in June 2000. He is a past president of the Manitoba World Federalists and is still active on their executive. He is also on the board of the Manitoba Model Forest, working to conserve the environment in Manitoba.

For many years, Cecil has also been active on the executive of the Winnipeg Economic Conversion Committee, which is closely affiliated with COAT. The WECD works locally to promote the conversion of military industries to environmentally sound and socially useful endeavors. (On two occasions, the WECD brought COAT’s coordinator to Winnipeg for speaking engagements.) Cecil always orders bulk copies of Press for Conversion! and has made very significant donations to our work. He also puts his body on the line. Some readers will recall reading in these pages about Cecil’s peaceful protest at the Manitoba air (i.e. war) show last year.

In recognition of his many decades of peace work, the YM-YWCA recently awarded Cecil with its Canada Peace Medal for his efforts in the Winnipeg area. Quite appropriately, the day after receiving this award, Cecil was splashed all over the front page for making a controversial Remembrance Day speech.

Way to go Cec! You’re a role model for all of us! Keep up the fantastic work!

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Press for Conversion! Issue # 39 December 1999
Stop the Expropriation of Nanoose Bay


British Columbia joined the Canadian confederation on May 16, 1871, pursuant to an Order of Her Majesty in Council. Georgia Strait and all submerged lands were part of BC at the time BC joined confederation, and remain part of BC as confirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada.

Since 1967, Canada’s federal government (“Canada”) has operated a test facility for torpedoes, sonar, sonobuoys and other maritime warfare equipment in an area of approximately 225 square kilometers of Georgia Strait at Nanoose Bay (the “Range”). The Range is approximately 35 nautical miles from Vancouver International Airport. Canada allows foreign governments, principally the U.S. navy, to use the Range. Approximately 500 to 800 submarine-launched torpedoes are fired there each year. Because of the unique qualities of the Georgia Strait seabed, the fired missiles are easily recovered. In 1996, the U.S. navy said it had saved $2 billion over 30 years.

In 1984, after a Supreme Court ruling confirmed that BC owned the Georgia Strait seabed, BC and Canada signed a $1 per year licence agreement for the seabed under the Range that expires on September 4, 1999 (the “Licence”).

On April 23, 1992, the BC Legislative Assembly declared BC to be a nuclear weapons free zone by a vote of 51 to 1. The U.S. has a policy of neither confirming nor denying the existence of nuclear weapons in its military operations. However, nuclear powered submarines armed with nuclear weapons have frequented the Range.


In March 1999, Canada requested a negotiated settlement. Negotiations commenced in April. Then, on May 5, senior negotiators for BC and Canada signed an agreement on points of principle for compensation, environmental stewardship and the prohibition of nuclear warheads.

On May 12, Canada announced that it would not abide by the agreement on points of principle of May 5, 1999. Two days later, Canada announced that it would start expropriation proceedings.

On May 22, the Minister of Public Works and Government Services, Alfonso Gagliano (the “Minister”) published in the Canada Gazette a Notice of Intention to Expropriate the Range. The Notice purports to require the Range “for a purpose related to the safety or security of Canada or of a state allied or associated with Canada.”

On July 5, the Attorney General of Canada, the Honourable Anne McLellan, appointed Mr. Goldie, retired justice of the BC Court of Appeal, to conduct a public hearing. Mr. Goldie is to file his report to the Minister by September 3. Although, pursuant to the Expropriation Act, the Minister has 120 days from the date of the Notice to confirm or abandon the decision to expropriate (Sept. 19), the licence expires September 4. To date, the Minister, through Goldie or directly, has received over 2,800 objections.

Mr. Goldie conducted public hearings in Nanaimo in July, and in Vancouver in August.

Lack of Constitutional Authority

The federal government does not have a general power of expropriation. It can only expropriate pursuant to federal heads of power enumerated in the Constitution Act, 1867. Canada was created as a federal union and the object was not to subordinate provinces to the whims of the central government.

The Plaintiffs challenge the constitutional validity of the Expropriation Act and rely on section 117 of the Constitution Act, 1867. The Federal government has no power to expropriate lands or property belonging to the Provinces, except for lands or property “required for Fortifications or for the Defence of the Country.” The Plaintiffs say that the Range is not required for the defence of Canada nor is it a fortification.

The Plaintiffs rely on sections 109 and 117 of the Constitution Act, 1867, the Canadian Bill of Rights S.C. 1960, c.44, sections 1(a) and (e).
**Nuisance**

The Plaintiffs and the public of BC have a right to health, safety and security as guaranteed by section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Magna Carta, the Bill of Rights (1688), and the preamble to the Constitution Act, 1867. The activities carried out by Canada and the U.S. are detrimental to the rights of the Plaintiffs and BC citizens, the particulars of which include but are not limited to:

(i) In 1995, a nuclear carrier spilled a three-mile oil slick onto the Range;

(ii) In 1991, an American submarine snagged the nets of a British Columbian gillnetter, requiring him to cut his nets; and

(iii) In 1994, a Chilean submarine en route from the Range struck and sank a BC sailboat.

Three decades of torpedo testing have resulted in the dumping of 93,000 kilometers of copper wire, 2,200 tons of lead, lithium batteries, smoke flares, and other toxic materials onto the seabed of Georgia Strait both inside and outside the Range. The estimated cost of clean-up is unknown at this time. Particulars will be provided to the Defendants in due course. The Defendant governments have permitted the use of ballistic-missile submarines carrying nuclear weapons to enter Georgia Strait. These submarines can carry up to 24 missiles, with each missile armed with up to eight 100-kiloton nuclear warheads, for a total of up to 192 warheads per submarine. Furthermore, fatalities from even a minor shipborne reactor accident could reach 3,000 to 4,000. Air and ground contamination would spread at least 50 kilometers from the accident site and would cause irreparable damage to the waters and fisheries of BC. Since 1980, there have been numerous accidents on U.S. vessels carrying nuclear weapons or capable of carrying nuclear weapons, some of which have resulted in death.

All vessels entering or leaving the Range cross public shipping lanes including BC ferry routes. BC ferries come within two kilometres of the Range.

The use of the Range for testing, deploying and carrying nuclear weapons is unreasonable interference with public and private interests. These harmful activities are of no use to the public and have caused injury to public property owned by all British Columbians. The use of the Range poses a threat to the health, safety and security of all citizens of BC.

**Breach of International Law**

The International Court of Justice has determined that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is generally contrary to international law. By allowing the Range to be used for the testing, deployment or carriage of nuclear weapons, both Canada and the U.S. are violating international law, committing crimes against humanity and depriving the Plaintiffs and all British Columbians of security of the person as guaranteed by s.7 of the Charter. The Plaintiffs have a legitimate expectation that Canada will uphold values of peace and disarmament and not behave like a war-mongering state.

Canada and the U.S. have deliberately and callously flouted international law, the Canadian constitution, and the decision of the people of BC to be a nuclear-weapons-free-zone, as a result of which high-handed and insensitive actions the Plaintiffs claim punitive damages.

**Source:** Supreme Court document, Statement of Claim, August 16, 1999.

For more information, contact: Canada Liberty Committee, c/o Constance Fogal Law Office, 401 - 207 West Hastings St., Vancouver, BC V6B-1H7. Tel.: 604-687-0588; Fax: 604-872-1504; Email: <cfogal@netcom.ca> Web site: <www.canadianliberty.bc.ca/nanoose/supreme.html>

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**Radioactive DU Shells Dumped off Halifax**

By Rob Gordon, reporter, CBC TV News.

CBC News has learned that tons of potentially toxic radioactive material is sitting just off the coast of Nova Scotia.

The Canadian Navy fired thousands of depleted uranium (DU) radioactive shells into a target range near Halifax. Fishermen in the area say they had no idea depleted uranium was scattered over the fishing grounds. The Navy says the ammunition is safe, but nuclear experts disagree. Some say it could pose a serious hazard.

Until about a year ago the shells were fired from a Phalanx gun, which used shells made of depleted uranium, a byproduct of the nuclear industry. The hardened shells are used to penetrate armour plating. The guns were installed on Canadian ships just prior to the Gulf War.

Over the years, the Navy fired six tons of DU shells, mostly into a fishing area near Eastern Passage, off Halifax harbour. "From our viewpoint we have not dumped nuclear waste, that’s stretching it," Lieutenant-Commander Bill McKillip, a Navy spokesman, told CBC TV.

DU was widely used against Iraq during the Gulf War. It is blamed for cancers in Iraqi children and even for Gulf War Syndrome. [Editor’s note: NATO used it during the war against Yugoslavia.] Now, thousands of shell casings are lying a few kilometres offshore from Halifax. McKillip said there are no plans to either clean up the slugs or test for radioactive material in the food chain.

Canada's Secret Police Monitored Peace Groups

By John M. Clearwater, author of Nuclear Weapons in Canada and Richard Sanders, Coordinator, Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade (COAT).

For decades, the RCMP monitored hundreds of peace groups that they considered subversive. By doing so they subverted the very democracy which they were supposedly trying to protect. The RCMP infiltrated groups, broke into premises, listened-in on conversations and paid informants to gather information at meetings and protests.

If you were active in any of the peace groups listed here, you were probably a victim of RCMP surveillance. If so, you may be interested to know that many of their secret files are now available to the public! In 1984, the RCMP Security Service transferred many of its secret records to the National Archives of Canada (NAC). If these files were stacked up, the pile would be over a kilometre high!

You can visit the NAC reference room in Ottawa, and view the RG146 finding aids. These consist of hundreds of pages listing groups which the RCMP spied on. Reprinted on the following pages is a partial list of the peace groups for which files are now available. Other RG146 volumes -- not shown here -- list RCMP files on labour, religious, cultural, youth and educational organisations.

To obtain peace group files cited here, write a simple letter requesting RCMP files under the Access to Information Act (AIA) of Canada and refer to the volume number, the name of the file (i.e., any of the groups listed). Use the group’s full name, not the abbreviation. Include your name, address and phone. Send your letter and a cheque for $5 per file (payable to the Receiver General of Canada) to:

Access to Information Coordinator NAC, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0N3 Tel. 613-947-1532 or 954-4142

Legally, the NAC has 30 days to respond, but they probably won’t meet this deadline. On day 31, write a one-line letter-of-delay complaint to the Information Commissioner. Making the complaint soon will help force the release of information. Simply state that the NAC has not responded within the required time limit. When they do send material, it will likely be censored. In this case, send a letter to the Information Commissioner (IC) saying that the response did not include all the requested records, and/or that it was heavily and unjustly severed (i.e., censored). Such simple complaints are often all that is required to finally get the files. The IC’s office will undertake an investigation that will hopefully result in the release of more documents.

Information Commissioner of Canada, 300 - 112 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 1H3 Tel.: 613-993-9976 or 995-2410

If you are interested in current (1984-1999) secret police files about a group, write to the RCMP and CSIS to request a file release under AIA. Using the method described above, simply write or fax, and send $5 to:

Cdn. Security Intelligence Service Garnet Barlow, Access Coordinator P.O. Box 9732, Ott. Postal Terminal Ottawa ON K1G 4G4 Toll free: 1-877-995-9903

RCMP Access to Information Coordinator Access to Information Department 1200, Vanier Parkway Ottawa, ON K1A 0R2 Tel.: 613-993-5162.

Even if your group is not listed here, the NAC, RCMP or CSIS may hold files on it. It is worth asking (without a formal request) if there is such a file.
### A Partial List of RCMP Files on Peace Groups

This is a partial list of peace organizations for which the RCMP Secret Service created files before 1984. These are now located at the NAC. (To save space, we have used abbreviations and excluded all groups opposing the Viet Nam war, as well as most peace conferences.)

The first number (between 697 and 801) is the volume number within the RG146 finding aid. In your request, be sure to refer to RG146 and the volume number. The number after the group name refers to the number of files available. If there is no number, there is only one file.

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<th>Number</th>
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Eastern Alberta Peace Committee
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Project Ploughshares, Canada 3 Edmontonians for a non-nuclear future 2 Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Edm Halifax Ctte against imperialist war 2 Arts for Peace, Canada 2 Peace Petition Caravan Campaign 3 778


Press for Conversion! Issue # 39 December 1999
In this second volume, John Clearwater continues to investigate the presence of American nuclear weapons in Canada. In Canadian Nuclear Weapons, Clearwater told the story of nuclear weapons that were in the hands of Canadian forces during the Cold War.

In U.S. Nuclear Weapons in Canada, he goes further, by looking at nuclear weapons which were held by American forces on Canadian soil. His purpose is to bring together until-recently secret information about the nature of the nuclear weapons stored, stationed or lost in Canada by the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy. Clearwater combines this with information which is known about the systems in the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

The history of the atomic bomb in Canada goes back to the first years after the second world war. From 1963 to 1984, U.S. nuclear warheads armed Canadian weapons systems in Canada and Germany. During the early part of the period, the Canadian military was likely putting more effort, money and manpower into the nuclear commitment than any other single activity. This important book is an operational-technical exposé of until-recently-secret information on nuclear weapons in Canada.

The work begins with the efforts of the Pearson government to sign the agreement with the U.S. to bring nuclear weapons to Canada in 1963. Subsequent chapters provide details on the four nuclear weapons systems deployed by Canada:

- the 'Bomarc' surface-to-air guided interceptor missile;
- the 'Honest John' short range battlefield rocket;
- the 'Starfighter' tactical thermonuclear bomber; and
- the 'Voodoo-Genie' air defence system.

Each chapter includes data on nuclear weapons accidents and incidents at Canadian sites. The final chapter covers the ultimately futile efforts of the Maritime Air Command and the Royal Canadian Navy to acquire nuclear anti-submarine weapons.

Appendices include:

- the secret agreement between Canada and the U.S. for provision of nuclear warheads;
- the four service-to-service arrangements for each weapons system; and
- the draft text of the consultation and authorization agreement of 1965 which laid out the means by which the Prime Minister would give permission to use nuclear weapons.

The book shows that there were cases in which the Prime Minister was not expected to be consulted, and Pearson gave a letter of prior authorization to the U.S. Ambassador for presidential use.

On July 30, 1999, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, representing the District of Columbia, held a press conference to announce the “Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act of 1999” (NDECA). In Ms. Norton’s own words, “The bill [H.R. 2545] would require the United States to disable and dismantle its nuclear weapons and to refrain from replacing them with weapons of mass destruction once foreign countries possessing nuclear weapons enact and execute similar requirements. The bill also provides that the resources used to sustain our nuclear weapons program be used to address human and infrastructure needs such as housing, health care, education, agriculture and the environment.”

“On the 54th anniversary of the first nuclear test at Alamogordo, New Mexico, I introduced the Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act. This is the fourth time I’ve introduced it. I try to link my introduction of the bill every year to some current notions that I think make the bill more and more timely,” Ms. Norton stated. “My hope is not that one day the Republican Congress will get religion and understand they ought to pass my bill all at one time -- I do not live in fairyland -- but that gradually this bill and parts of this bill will capture the imagination of a majority of Congress.”

California Representative Lynn Woolsey, the first co-sponsor of the measure, joined Ms. Norton at the press conference. “The Cold War is over, yet the threat of nuclear weapons still hangs over us like a dark mushroom cloud that does not go away, and it won’t until we do something about it. And while our colleagues are taking care of building more nuclear weapons, I continue to ask the question, who’s taking care of our children?,” Rep. Woolsey said.

Ms. Woolsey noted that the NDECA would complement her own measure ‘H.R. 82 (which) calls on the president to use the United Nations’ model nuclear weapons convention’ as a guideline to start multilateral negotiations to rid all countries of nuclear weapons.... I am pleased to be signing on as a co-sponsor of the NDECA, and if it doesn’t pass this year, I’ll sign on in the next Congress, and the next Congress, until it will,” Woolsey pledged.

Norton explained that the U.S. “cannot make a credible case to persuade such countries to abandon their nuclear ambitions unless we ourselves are willing to take the initiative in dismantling our own nuclear weapons program and helping arms industries to convert to useful economic activity.”

Dr. Marcus Raskin made a practical observation on the effective history of nuclear arms control: “The U.S. signed on to the idea of general and complete disarmament. And there are six treaties in being which begin with that idea, including various arms control agreements, no nuclear testing in the atmosphere, space, and so forth. The point is also that the United States has done virtually nothing with regard to moving toward general and complete disarmament. It also is part of the non-proliferation treaty, the idea of cutting back radically in nuclear weapons, and getting other nations to do the same. So the U.S. has not done its role.” Mr. Raskin is a co-founder of Institute for Policy Studies, a former member of the White House Staff (1961), a White House Delegate to the U.N. Disarmament talks in Geneva (1962), a professor at George Washington University, and the author of 17 books.

Dr. Raskin apparently stimulated thoughts of activism with a couple of additional comments. “I don’t think the peace movement has done its role either, and I think that one of the problems here is that we have to work through the strategy for bringing on a disarmament situation.” Specifically, Raskin suggested that there are “many members of Congress who should be lobbied very hard for this bill, and for the economic conversion part of this bill, and perhaps a good place to begin would be with the Progressive Caucus itself.”

“There are a number of things that have to be linked together, which means that there has to be a dialogue in the peace movement to show the linkages between these various questions,” Raskin said, referring to weapons systems, economics and politics. Finally, Raskin suggested that it was up to the “peace movement” to “come up with a program which could be worked through with members of Congress, led by Congresswoman Norton, and just see where we go over the course of the next three or four years.”

For more information, contact: Sean Gralton, Press Secretary of Congresswoman Norton. Tel. 202-225-8050, or the Proposition One Committee, Web site: <prop1.org>

Source: Email from Proposition One Committee, August 1, 1999.
Maintaining the U.S. nuclear arsenal of over 10,000 strategic warheads (of which 7,200 are operational) remains an enormously expensive proposition. Movement towards deep reductions or elimination of the U.S. nuclear stockpile could save tens of billions of dollars annually. Even modest steps like stopping procurement of Trident II submarine-launched ballistic missiles could save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

Footnotes:
2. Schwartz, Atomic Audit, op. cit., p. 1; includes $25 billion for directly maintaining the arsenal plus $10 billion for associated costs of clean-up, missile defense, and victim compensation.
6. Atomic Audit, op cit., Chapter 6, p. 355 (extrapolated from Dept. of Energy estimates).

Source: A World Policy Institute Fact Sheet, Nov. 1999.

For more information, contact: William D. Hartung, World Policy Institute, 65 Fifth Ave., Suite 413, New York, NY 10003 USA. Tel.: 212-229-5808, ext. 106; Fax: 212-229-5579; Email: <hartung@newschool.edu>

Costs of the U.S. Nuclear Arsenal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Costs Since 1940 (to build, deploy, maintain, cleanup)</td>
<td>$5.6 trillion¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Annual Costs (total U.S. nuclear arsenal)</td>
<td>$35 billion²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Costs of Stockpile Stewardship Program (a Department of Energy program to maintain the existing nuclear stockpile and develop new nuclear warheads)</td>
<td>$4.5 billion³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of additional Trident II submarine-launched ballistic missiles (in FY 2000 budget, produced by Lockheed Martin)</td>
<td>$535 million⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of maintaining 550 land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (1997-2012, contract to TRW, Inc.)</td>
<td>$3.4 billion⁵</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated costs of environmental cleanup of nuclear weapons research, testing and production sites</td>
<td>$227 to 410 billion⁶</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
With 48 votes in favor of the nuclear test ban treaty, 51 against, and one vote cast as “present,” the Senate defeated ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) on October 13, 1999. This vote opens the door to unchecked nuclear weapons development and proliferation worldwide. As predicted, Democrats voted as a block. A few courageous votes to end global nuclear weapons testing were cast by four Republican Senators.

“It is unconscionable that the extreme right wing of the Republican Party has taken over U.S. arms control and created a global, nuclear free-for-all. It is unconscionable that partisan politicking has out-weighted efforts to lessen the risk of nuclear holocaust. It is unconscionable that the U.S. Senate and the Clinton Administration have failed the American people and the international community by their inability to reach agreement on this vital treaty,” asserted Gordon Clark, Peace Action’s Executive Director.

Condemnation of the Senate vote is expected from angry constituents. Peace Action affiliates in states whose Senator(s) opposed the treaty will launch campaigns and electoral initiatives to punish the treaty-wreckers. “Peace Action will work to emblazon the CTBT vote in the electorate’s mind and Senators who voted against the test ban will have to answer at the polls,” said Clark.

The failure of the Senate to ratify the test ban has ominous consequences for past, present and future multinational arms control and disarmament efforts. Past agreements, such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty, may unravel. Current efforts to reduce nuclear arsenals through the START process may halt.

The Senate vote has cracked the foundation of the international arms control regime, eroding confidence in the viability of future efforts. “India, Pakistan and other nations have received a green light from the United States to further develop nuclear weapons. If the world’s uncontested nuclear super-power refuses to abide by international treaties to lessen the risk of nuclear war, why shouldn’t other nations?” asked Clark.

“Peace Action and other grassroots activists will sustain pressure on Senate leaders until successful passage of the nuclear test ban is achieved!” Clark concluded.

For more information, contact: Shundahai Network, 5007 Elmhurst, Las Vegas NV USA 89108; Tel.: 702-647-3095; Fax: 702-647-9385; Email: <shundahai@shundahai.org> Web site: <www.shundahai.org>


Oboe 2: Subcritical Testing

On November 9, Oboe 2, a subcritical nuclear experiment was detonated at the Nevada Nuclear Test Site, just 85 miles north of Las Vegas. Members of the Shundahai Network sponsored a non-violent protest and six activists were arrested at the entrance to the test site. Protesters also rallied in Las Vegas, protesting the fact that the Department of Energy (DoE) is “expanding their nuclear testing program while becoming increasingly secretive.”

Gregor Gable, a spokesperson for the Shundahai Network, stated that, “the DoE has accelerated their nuclear testing program after the U.S. rejection of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, demonstrating their desire to return to full-scale nuclear weapons testing... with no end in sight.”

While the DoE claims their past nuclear tests have not contaminated any groundwater, they remain uncertain about the effects of subcritical testing and continue to jeopardize public safety for current and future generations by dispersing more plutonium in the earth.

For more information, contact: Shundahai Network, 5007 Elmhurst, Las Vegas NV USA 89108; Tel.: 702-647-3095; Fax: 702-647-9385; Email: <shundahai@shundahai.org> Web site: <www.shundahai.org>


For more information, contact: Peace Action Education Fund, 1819 H St., NW #425, Washington, DC 20006, USA. Tel.: 202-862-9740 Ext. 3006; Fax: 202-862-9762.
George W. Bush’s “Fortress America” Foreign Policy

Peace Action, the largest grassroots peace and disarmament organization in the U.S., condemned the foreign policy address of Presidential candidate George W. Bush as a dangerous path toward increased nuclear weapons proliferation and a new nuclear arms race.

“Governor Bush may sugarcoat his words, but his fundamental foreign policy ideas are straight out of the extremist playbook of Jesse Helms, and the prelude to a ‘Fortress America’ mentality,” said Gordon S. Clark, Executive Director of Peace Action.

“Bush says isolationism is a mistake, yet his policies on nuclear weapons are exactly that. His ideas are not a vision of the future, but a serious step backward. He runs the serious risk of restarting a new nuclear arms race.”

On Missile Defence

It is appropriate that Governor Bush delivered his speech at the Reagan Library, because he too seems to have an almost childlike belief in the as-yet-unproven technology of missile defense. His belief that a missile defense would render the nuclear weapons of rogue states ‘useless’ not only belies a faith in the technology ungrounded in reality, but suggests also that he is unaware that you don’t need a missile to deliver a nuclear bomb. It wasn’t a missile that destroyed U.S. army barracks in Saudi Arabia and Lebanon, or the federal building in Oklahoma. Nonetheless, this seems to be his one consistent policy for almost any region of the world... give them missile defense. Why doesn’t Governor Bush even mention the vociferous objections of Russia and China to missile defenses, or the concerns of our closest allies that their development will lead to a new arms race?

On Russia

While he wants to ‘share’ missile defense technology with Russia, information isn’t the same as the tens of billions of dollars needed to build such a system. Certainly even Bush must be aware that Russia doesn’t have the money to build new missile defenses.

On Alliances

Governor Bush stressed the necessity of strong alliances to his foreign policy, NATO in particular. Yet his primary nuclear weapons policies — rejection of the nuclear test ban treaty and rushed deployment of a missile defense — are precisely the ones that our allies have been loudly denouncing, and which they fear will injure or break up the NATO alliance.


For more information, contact: Gordon S. Clark, 202-862-9740, Ext. 3007; Web Site: <www.peace-action.org>
Where the U.S. Hid its Nuclear Weapons

Although the U.S. deployed thousands of nuclear bombs abroad, the weapons’ hosts did not always know they were there.

A formerly top secret U.S. military document was recently released which answers questions about the history of where, when and under what circumstances the U.S. deployed nuclear bombs overseas. Finally, after a ten-year process, this important historical document was made public earlier this year in response to a Freedom of Information Act request by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NDRC).

The document released is called “History of the Custody and Deployment of Nuclear Weapons, July 1945 through September 1977.” It was undertaken a generation ago by the U.S. Department of Defense. It contains “Appendix B,” called “Deployments by Country, 1951-1977.,” which includes what were -- until now -- some of the U.S. government’s most closely guarded secrets about the deployment of nuclear weapons.

The November/December 1999 issue of Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists contains a fascinating article called “Where They Were” about the contents of these secret documents. The article was written by Robert S. Norris, senior research analyst, NDRC; William M. Arkin, co-author of Nuclear Battlefields (1985) and William Burr, senior analyst, National Security Archive and director, U.S. nuclear history documentation project.

When the secret document was released, 18 of the 27 locations for U.S. nuclear weapons were blacked out. However, because the names were in alphabetical order, and because the authors had a wealth of corroborating data, they were able to add -- in brackets -- all of the missing names.

The largest concentration of U.S. nuclear weapons deployed offshore was in Germany, which had 21 different types and 7000 warheads.


Where & When U.S. Nuclear Weapons Were First Deployed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Canada]</td>
<td>1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Chicha Jima]</td>
<td>1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Greenland]</td>
<td>1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guam</td>
<td>1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Iwa Jima]</td>
<td>1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Japan]</td>
<td>1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnston Isl.</td>
<td>1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Kwajalein]</td>
<td>1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midway</td>
<td>1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Morocco]</td>
<td>1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Okinawa]</td>
<td>1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[South Korea]</td>
<td>1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Spain]</td>
<td>1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Taiwan]</td>
<td>1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATO Europe:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Belgium]</td>
<td>1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[France]</td>
<td>1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Greece]</td>
<td>1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Italy]</td>
<td>1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Netherlands]</td>
<td>1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Turkey]</td>
<td>1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.K.</td>
<td>1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Germany</td>
<td>1955</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

U.S. Nuclear Weapons in Canada

U.S. authors Norris, Arkin and Burr have acknowledged the work of Canadian researcher John M. Clearwater in determining that Canada was one of the blacked-out locations listed in “Appendix B.” The document confirms that the following U.S. nuclear weapons were deployed in Canada:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bomb</th>
<th>Deployed</th>
<th>Removed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonnuclear</td>
<td>Jul-Dec ‘50</td>
<td>June 71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOMARC</td>
<td>Jan-Mar ‘64</td>
<td>June ‘72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genie</td>
<td>May ’65</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falcon</td>
<td>Jul ’65</td>
<td>Dec ‘66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depth bomb</td>
<td>Feb ’68</td>
<td>Jun 70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many more details on this subject will soon be released in John Clearwater’s next book, U.S. Nuclear Weapons in Canada, which will apparently be released on January 15, 2000. [For reviews on two of Clearwater’s books on this subject, see page 32.]
Conversion is a labour issue!
With declining military budgets in Canada and other NATO countries, military industries and bases are laying off workers. Conversion is the process of planning ahead in order to transform capital-intensive, military-related jobs into labour-intensive, civilian jobs.

... an economic justice issue!
By reducing military budgets and supporting the production of socially useful products and services, government money and resources which were previously invested in military production can be used to create more jobs and rebuild domestic social programs.

... a peace & human rights issue!
Providing civilian alternatives to military production also has many beneficial spin-offs worldwide. By stopping military exports to countries at war or which are abusing human rights, we are helping those who are struggling for peace, democracy and justice.

... a sociocultural issue!
Our society is being militarised by a 'bombardment' of cultural products ranging from action films, violent video games and TV programs to war toys, model aircraft building and air shows. It's time we worked actively to build a culture of peace.

... a psychological issue!
Although, ultimately, we are working to promote social change, this cannot come about without transforming the beliefs, attitudes and perceptions of individuals, including ourselves.

... an environmental issue!
Instead of making military equipment, many military industries could be producing much needed environmental technologies to prevent pollution and cleanup the environment.

... a legal issue!
The world is governed by those with the most money and the biggest guns. Government institutions commit crimes against peace and humanity. We need to move from a global system of "might is right" toward one based on respect for international law.

Yes, count me in!

Name...........................................................................................................................
Organization..............................................................................................................
Address.....................................................................................................................
Town/City..............Prov./State...........Postal Code.................................
Tel.................................Email..............................................................

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An Evening with Svend Robinson!

Thursday, February 24, 2000, 7 p.m.
30 Cleary Ave. (First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa)

Svend will speak on global issues including the abolition of nuclear weapons, links between trade and human rights, and the role of the peace movement.

After his talk there will be a reception to socialize and sample a variety of home-made desserts!

This event is being organized by the Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade, with the support of the Peace and Disarmament subcommittee of the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa. Admission is free, although donations are certainly welcome! (There will also be a silent auction. Please let us know if you have items that you’d like to donate.)

For more information, please contact:
Ria Heynen at 613-828-8468.

Thursday, February 24, 2000,
7 p.m.
30 Cleary Ave. (First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa)
Sure, I'll renew my subscription!

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