



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH JUNE 2013 ARTICLES

This newsletter is part of Inter Press Service (IPS) and Soka Gakkai International (SGI) project. It includes independent news and analyses as well as columns by experts, news from international NGOs and a review of the global media for a glimpse of what is happening on the ground. Newspaper articles reproduced in this newsletter are for personal use and aim at giving information to readers. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.

In-Depth Reports

Obama Renews Push For Nuclear Arms Control



WASHINGTON - Reactions have been mixed to President Barack Obama's call for greater nuclear arms reductions in the United States and Russia, made during his speech in Berlin on June 19, 2013. "We may no longer live in fear of global annihilation, but so long as nuclear weapons exist, we are not truly safe," Obama stated. "We may strike blows against terrorist networks, but if we ignore the instability and intolerance that fuels extremism, our own freedom will eventually be endangered." > Pages 2-3

Obama Magic is Gone – Caution Outweighs Zeal



BERLIN - President Barack Obama's commitment four years ago "to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons" reverberated across the globe generating hope that humankind will not be annihilated by a sheer flash of light. On June 19 in Berlin he sought to build on the iconic Prague speech. But there was no magic filling the air.

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UN Downplays Health Effects of Nuclear Radiation



UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations has come under criticism from medical experts and members of civil society for what these critics consider inaccurate statements about the effects of lingering radioactivity on local populations. Scientists and doctors met with top UN officials in June to discuss the effects of radioactivity in Japan and Ukraine, and the UN has enlisted several of its agencies, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), to address the matter. In May, UNSCEAR stated that radiation exposure following the 2011 Fukushima-Daichii nuclear disaster in Japan poses "no immediate health risks" and that long-term health risks are "unlikely". > Pages 8-9

UN Can Help Devalue Nukes as Geopolitical Currency



UNITED NATIONS - When the 193-member UN General Assembly (UNGA) holds its first-ever high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament next September, there is little or no hope that any of the nuclear powers will make a firm commitment to gradually phase out or abandon their lethal arsenals. At the beginning of 2013, eight states – UK, the United States, Russia, France, China, India, Pakistan and Israel – possessed approximately 4,400 operational nuclear weapons, according to the latest Yearbook released June 3 by the Stockholm International

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Obama Renews Push For Nuclear Arms Control

By CYDNEY HARGIS

WASHINGTON (IPS) - Reactions have been mixed to President Barack Obama's call for greater nuclear arms reductions in the United States and Russia, made during his speech in Berlin on June 19, 2013.



"We may no longer live in fear of global annihilation, but so long as nuclear weapons exist, we are not truly safe," Obama stated. "We may strike blows against terrorist networks, but if we ignore the instability and intolerance that fuels extremism, our own freedom will eventually be endangered."

The president addressed about 6,000 invited guests at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, marking 50 years after U.S. President John F. Kennedy made a similar speech at the height of the Cold War.

Obama announced he would push to work with Russia to reduce the number of U.S. and Russian tactical weapons in Europe, as well as the total number of strategic nuclear weapons deployed by both countries.

"To me, the speech today was disappointing," John Burroughs, executive director of the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy (LCNP), a New York advocacy group, told IPS. "Obama did not talk about some important multi-lateral opportunities, nor about creating more opportunities."

Others lauded the president's call as critical, if belated.

"The Berlin Wall fell more than two decades ago, and these reductions are long overdue," Lisbeth Gronlund, a senior scientist and co-director of the Global Security Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, an advocacy group, said.

"The president's initiative implicitly acknowledges that today nuclear weapons are a liability, not an asset," Gronlund added.

The New START Treaty of 2010 limited U.S. and Russian stockpiles to 800 missiles, bombers and submarine launchers each, as well as 1,550 deployed strategic warheads.

The Obama administration is now proposing cutting each country's strategic warheads by a third, which would leave the United States and Russia with slightly over 1,000 nuclear weapons each.

"Bipartisan national security leaders agree that further, deeper nuclear reductions would increase U.S. security, lead to budget savings, and help pressure other nuclear-armed states to join the disarmament enterprise," Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Washington-based advocacy group Arms Control Association, said.

An expensive system

According to the Arms Control Association, the United States spends an estimated 31 billion dollars annually to support its arsenal of deployed strategic nuclear warheads and associated delivery systems.

If the country reduced its deployed strategic warheads to 1,000 or fewer, the group estimates, taxpayers would save some 58 billion dollars over the coming decade.

With terrorist and cyber attacks increasingly prevalent in recent years, analysts have stepped up calls for the U.S. government to re-evaluate whether a massive nuclear arsenal remains the most relevant way of addressing those threats, particularly given the hundreds of billions of dollars in upkeep those arsenals require.

Obama has renewed commitments to the U.S. ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which forbids all nuclear test explosions. Ratification of the treaty has already failed once in Congress, however, and the president has set no new deadline for submitting it to the Senate.

Obama has also stated that he plans to hold the fourth meeting of the Nuclear Security Summit, a biennial meeting to prevent nuclear terrorism around the world, in 2016, with the United States hosting the talks. ☺

Picture: U.S. President Barack Obama chairing the Security Council Summit on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament in 2009. | Credit: Bomoon Lee/IPS



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The administration now hopes to work with NATO allies to come up with concrete proposals for reducing the world's stockpiles of tactical nuclear weapons, which are not covered by the New START Treaty from 2010.

Russia, which has many more tactical weapons than either the United States or Europe, has been resistant to such reductions in the past.

On June 19, Russia's initial response to Obama's call for reductions was lukewarm. One senior foreign policy adviser to Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow wants to "expand the circle of participants" of countries reducing their nuclear arms.

"How can we take seriously this idea about cuts in strategic nuclear potential while the United States is developing its capabilities to intercept Russia's nuclear potential?" Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin told reporters in St. Petersburg.

Rehashing statements

In the United States, some civil society voices are suggesting that Obama's new proposals sound suspiciously repetitive.

"President Obama's nuclear proposals in Berlin are a tired rehash of U.S. nuclear policy," said Alice Slater, the director of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, a non-profit advocacy group, "designed to maintain America's global military superiority in a web of alliances entangling other nations in a U.S. sphere of nuclear weapons and missile

'offenses' under the ribs of a leaky nuclear umbrella."

Republicans in Congress, meanwhile, have already made it clear that they will push back against any treaty that proposes cuts deeper than those proposed in the 2010 New START Treaty, suggesting that the proposed reductions would hurt U.S. security.

"I do not believe the American people will support the president's policy, which will serve only to weaken our nuclear deterrent and our ability to deal with threats to our strategic interest in the years to come," James Inhofe, a conservative senator and ranking member on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said.

According to LCNP's Burroughs, if proposed cuts made it into the treaty, it is not certain they would receive the required two-thirds majority in the Senate. However, he said a political understanding between the Obama administration and the Russian government would not actually require congressional approval.

But he also warned of severe objections to proceeding in that direction.

"The steps that Obama was talking about taking with respect to tactical nuclear weapons or the long-range strategic weapons is basically making any U.S. reduction contingent on Russian reciprocity," Burroughs told IPS.

"I understand the political reasons...but the United States could make reductions on its own and invite Russia to follow – and we'd be perfectly safe." [IPS | June 19, 2013]

Original <> <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/06/obama-renews-push-for-nuclear-arms-control/>

JAPANESE

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=961:obama-renews-push-for-nuclear-arms-control-japanese-&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=962:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3



Credit: media3.s-nbcnews.com



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Obama Magic is Gone – Caution Outweighs Zeal

By RAMESH JAURA

BERLIN (IDN) - President Barack Obama's commitment four years ago "to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons" reverberated across the globe generating hope that humankind will not be annihilated by a sheer flash of light. On June 19 in Berlin he sought to build on the iconic Prague speech. But there was no magic filling the air.

The reason, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) General Secretary Kate Hudson wrote on June 28 in her [blog](#): "... despite Obama's apparent continued commitment to the goal of global abolition, he did not quite take us to the dizzy heights of hope and emotion stirred by his Prague speech in 2009."

Much of what Obama spoke of in Berlin was on the Prague list too, but progress has been slow, said Hudson. "Ratifying the CTBT (Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty) and moving forward on a fissile material treaty were both there in Prague and are still there now, as are the questions of nuclear security and access to civil nuclear power. Looking back, it is clear that the ratification of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty – START – was the only real achievement out of Obama's 2009 initiative, with some success in reducing their respective nuclear stockpiles."

Hudson added: "... maybe that is because since then we have seen that whatever his intentions, he has been unable to deliver on his disarmament promises without at the same time pledging modernisation of nuclear weaponry and pursuing new systems which void the 'deterrent' effect of his potential opponents' nuclear weapons."

She pointed out that Obama was not having an easy time of it at home either. "Since Berlin, a number of Republican senators have jumped up to denounce the president in no uncertain terms with Kelly Ayotte describing his intentions as misguided and dangerous. So there are many obstacles to further progress on nuclear disarmament, to put it mildly. Although the picture would not be complete without recognising the impact of the financial crisis on public opinion and changing perceptions of security needs.

"Whether in the US or the United Kingdom, there is increasing hostility to spending on nuclear weapons. They are widely perceived as wasteful and anachronistic.



CND Secretary General Kate Hudson
Credit: CND

People feel they are failing to meet 21st century threats such as terrorism, cyber warfare or climate change."

While welcoming President Obama's announcement in Berlin calling for a world without nuclear weapons and the readiness to pursue further reductions in the US and Russian nuclear arsenals, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) said: "... the humanitarian consequences of any nuclear weapon use, increasingly the focus of global engagement on these weapons, demands their prohibition and elimination."

ICAN added: "The speech by President Obama contributes to a growing recognition that nuclear weapons are unusable weapons with no practical utility in today's global security environment. Despite this, they threaten shocking humanitarian consequences if they were to be used. Nuclear weapons are the only weapons of mass destruction not subject to treaty prohibition and ICAN is calling for such a treaty to provide the framework for their elimination."

Speaking from the former East German side of the historic Brandenburg Gate in divided Germany, Obama declared: "We may no longer live in fear of global annihilation, but so long as nuclear weapons exist, we are not truly safe."

In this context, it was significant that Obama linked nuclear weapons to peace and justice: "Peace with justice means pursuing the security of a world without nuclear weapons – no matter how distant that dream may be."

"While this goal may seem to be a distant or even unrealistic one to some, it is not beyond our reach," said Soka Gakkai (SG) Vice President Hirotsugu Terasak – who is also Executive Director, Soka Gakkai International (SGI) Peace Affairs. He quoted SGI President Daisaku Ikeda: ☺



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“In order to achieve real security in the twenty-first century we need to bring forth the powers of imagination that will enable us to directly and accurately apprehend evolving realities, to guide these changes toward the desired direction and to give birth to entirely new realities.”

The Tokyo-based lay Buddhist organisation with members around the world, has been in the forefront of promoting awareness of the need to abolish nuclear weapons.

“President Obama’s Berlin speech is a welcome reaffirmation of his commitment to achieving a world free from nuclear weapons. The readiness he expresses to pursue further reductions in the US and Russian nuclear arsenals represents a concrete step toward this goal,” Terasaki said in a statement forwarded to IDN.

He added: “To make good on its stated commitments, the US administration now needs to establish a path of tangible actions to move beyond a world of decreased nuclear risks to reach the goal of nuclear weapons abolition.

As President Obama’s stance makes clear, the doctrine of nuclear deterrence can no longer make any meaningful contribution to the security of any state. This is something the world’s ordinary citizens have long known: holding humanity hostage to nuclear Armageddon makes no one safe.”

In view of the risks, effects and costs of nuclear weapons, Terasaki said, there is both the practical necessity and the moral imperative to rid the world of those apocalyptic weapons. “The time has come to initiate negotiations on a treaty that will prohibit nuclear weapons,” he added.

“The work for eliminating nuclear weapons must be a global enterprise, shared by all members of the human family,” Terasaki stressed. “Every actor – the nuclear weapons states, the states that have refrained from developing these weapons and, most critically, the world’s people – must play a role.

The SGI is committed to building grassroots awareness in order to empower people’s efforts toward the prohibition and abolition of nuclear weapons.”

More work to do

Obama admitted in his Berlin speech that “we have more work to do”, and said he was “announcing additional steps forward”. He went on to say: “After a comprehensive review, I’ve determined that we can



Germany's Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle | Credit: Wikimedia Commons

ensure the security of America and our allies, and maintain a strong and credible strategic deterrent, while reducing our deployed strategic nuclear weapons by up to one-third. And I intend to seek negotiated cuts with Russia to move beyond Cold War nuclear postures.”

“At the same time,” he said, “we’ll work with our NATO allies to seek bold reductions in US and Russian tactical weapons in Europe. And we can forge a new international framework for peaceful nuclear power, and reject the nuclear weaponization that North Korea and Iran may be seeking.”

Obama added: “America will host a summit in 2016 to continue our efforts to secure nuclear materials around the world, and we will work to build support in the United States to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and call on all nations to begin negotiations on a treaty that ends the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons. These are steps we can take to create a world of peace with justice.”

Although the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which bans all nuclear explosions, has been signed by 183 countries of which 158 have also now ratified, it can only enter into force after it has been ratified by the eight remaining nuclear capable countries: China, the North Korea, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan and the United States. ☺



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Towards Global Zero

Expectedly, German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle's response on June 19 underlined cautious optimism mixed with an oblique reference to Berlin's interest in having U.S. tactical weapons removed from the German soil and a genuine dialogue with Russia: "President Obama's proposals on nuclear disarmament are a bold step forward which Germany supports in its foreign policy.

"The world will become a safer and better place if we together manage to realize his plans for nuclear disarmament. Fewer nuclear weapons and effective global rules on nuclear non-proliferation are decisive steps towards Global Zero – a world without nuclear weapons.

Now we need to work together to use the momentum. This is especially true of dialogue with Moscow. A reduction also in tactical nuclear weapons in Europe is particularly important to us. The German government will do its utmost to support President Obama's plans."

On June 20, Westerwelle explained in a statement at a conference on security in Nuremberg: "There are still 17,000 nuclear warheads around the world. If this figure can be reduced, the world will be a safer place. That's why President Obama's disarmament initiative is a bold step forward for peace and security.

"That President Obama has expressly included tactical nuclear weapons in Europe in his proposals, will give a boost to our efforts to bring about the withdrawal of the last nuclear weapons remaining on German soil.

"President Obama's initiative is a great vindication of our decision to make nuclear disarmament a priority in Germany's foreign policy. Of course, the other nuclear powers, especially Russia, have to play their part. We will now step up the dialogue with Moscow with a view to supporting President Obama's initiative. The focus of German foreign policy will be on building bridges to foster nuclear disarmament.

"A world without nuclear weapons is a vision, not an



Uta Zapf, Chair of the German parliamentary sub-committee on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation | Credit: Bundestag

illusion. Of course, it will not come about overnight. We need political will, astute diplomacy and, above all, perseverance and strategic patience."

Chance passed

Uta Zapf, Chair of the German parliamentary sub-committee on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation said on June 27 that Russia will not accept President Obama's proposal for further reduction in nuclear weapons as long as no heed is paid to the country's security needs.

She added: "Why should U.S. tactical nuclear weapons continue to stay in Europe and with us until disarmament has taken place? Would it not be much more conducive to disarmament if these weapons were stationed in the U.S.?"

In fact, the chance for a withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons seems to have passed, Zapf said. "The June

12, 2013 new 'Nuclear Employment Strategy' of the United States – probably as a consequence of the decisions of Chicago (NATO summit) – stipulates the deployment of these weapons in Europe. The modernization of the B61 would appear to be an integral component of the U.S. strategy to protect allies ('extended deterrence')."

Russian reaction showed that Zapf is not off the mark. As the New START accord already requires each nation by 2018 to cap its stockpile of fielded warheads at 1,550, under Obama's proposal a new ceiling could become roughly 1,000 deployed strategic warheads apiece, according to the [Global Security Newswire](#).

"Russia objects to the Obama administration's plan through the next five years to field increasingly capable missile interceptors in Europe. The Kremlin has not accepted the White House insistence that the antimissile systems are solely aimed at protecting against possible Iranian missile attacks, and is demanding a legally binding accord that would govern the interceptors' usage. Numerous rounds of US-Russia talks on missile defense have been unable to resolve the core differences," noted the [Global Security Newswire](#). ☺



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Considering that the antimissile issue is not yet resolved, Moscow is taking Obama's concept for talks with a grain of salt, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin was reported by ITAR-Tass to have said on June 20.

"How can we possibly take this thesis about cutting the strategic nuclear potentials seriously, when the USA is building up the potential to intercept this strategic potential? Obviously, the top political leadership cannot take these assurances seriously," Rogozin said to journalists.

Moscow is unable to "indefinitely and bilaterally talk with the United States about cuts and restrictions on nuclear weapons in a situation where a whole number of other countries are expanding their nuclear and missile potentials," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said to RIA Novosti. "Before discussing the necessity of a further reduction of nuclear weapons we need to arrive at an acceptable solution of the (missile defence) problem."

Cold war posture

In an [analysis](#) for the Global Security Newswire, Elaine M. Grossman wrote on June 21: "While President Obama made headlines . . . for proposing to negotiate with Russia fresh reductions in each side's fielded nuclear arms, the US leader has more quietly directed the Defense

Department to hang onto some notable mainstays of the Cold War.

"A few hours after Obama's speech in Berlin, the Pentagon released publicly a report to Congress on guidance the president issued in recent days on 'nuclear employment strategy' (to which Uta Zapf also referred) – the broad targeting directives that help determine how many atomic arms the nation requires."

"On the one hand, the guidance directs pursuit of additional reductions in deployed strategic warheads and less reliance on preparing for a surprise nuclear attack," Grossman quoted nuclear weapons expert Hans Kristensen saying in a June 20 blog post. "On the other hand, the guidance reaffirms a commitment to core Cold War posture characteristics such as counterforce targeting, retaining a triad of strategic nuclear forces, and retaining non-strategic nuclear weapons forward-deployed in Europe."

About the writer: Ramesh Jaura is global editor of IDN and its sister publication [Global Perspectives](#), chief editor of [IPS Germany](#) as well as editorial board member of [Other News](#). He is also executive president of [Global Cooperation Council](#), board member of [IPS international](#) and global coordinator of SGI-IPS project for strengthening public awareness of the need to abolish nukes. [IDN-InDepthNews – June 30, 2013]

The screenshot shows the NTI (Nuclear Threat Initiative) website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'GLOSSARY', 'TREATIES & REGIMES', and 'ALL TOPICS'. The main header includes the NTI logo and the tagline 'BUILDING A SAFER WORLD'. Below this, there are menu items for 'ABOUT NTI', 'THREATS', 'ANALYSIS', and 'COUNTRY PROFILES'. The page features a 'GLOBAL SECURITY NEWSWIRE' section, produced by National Journal, with a subtitle 'DAILY NEWS ON NUCLEAR, BIOLOGICAL & CHEMICAL WEAPONS, TERRORISM AND RELATED ISSUES'. The featured article is 'Fresh U.S. Nuclear Guidance Relies on Some Cold War Elements' by Elaine M. Grossman, dated June 21, 2013. The article text is partially visible, starting with 'WASHINGTON – While President Obama made headlines on Wednesday for proposing to negotiate with Russia fresh reductions in each side's fielded nuclear arms, the U.S. leader has more quietly directed the Defense Department to hang onto some notable mainstays of the Cold War.' There are also social media sharing options and a 'SUBSCRIBE TO GSN' section.

<http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/fresh-us-nuclear-guidance-relies-some-cold-war-elements/>



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UN Downplays Health Effects of Nuclear Radiation

By GEORGE GAO

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - The United Nations has come under criticism from medical experts and members of civil society for what these critics consider inaccurate statements about the effects of lingering radioactivity on local populations.

Scientists and doctors met with top UN officials in June to discuss the effects of radioactivity in Japan and Ukraine, and the UN has enlisted several of its agencies, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), to address the matter.



In May, UNSCEAR stated that radiation exposure following the 2011 Fukushima-Daichii nuclear disaster in Japan poses “no immediate health risks” and that long-term health risks are “unlikely”.

“I think it’s ridiculous,” said Helen Caldicott, an Australian doctor and dissident, in response to the UNSCEAR report. “There have been health effects. A lot of people have experienced acute radiation illness, including bleeding noses, hair loss, nausea and diarrhoea,” she told IPS.

The UNSCEAR report followed a February WHO report, which also predicted low health risks and normal cancer

rates in Japan after the Fukushima disaster, even while noting that long-term studies are still needed. WHO warned instead of resulting psychosocial damage to the population.

Asked why UNSCEAR and WHO released such statements if they were medically inaccurate, Caldicott referred to a 1959 WHO-IAEA agreement that gives the IAEA – an organisation that promotes nuclear power – oversight when researching nuclear accidents.

“The WHO is a handmaiden to the IAEA,” said Caldicott, who engaged in a 2011 debate on the subject with The Guardian’s George Monbiot. Monbiot had argued that nuclear plants are a viable alternative to coal plants.

“It’s a scandal which has not really been exposed in general literature and to the public,” said Caldicott of the WHO-IAEA agreement.

When the UN General Assembly proclaimed 2006-2016 the “Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions”, it committed to a “development approach” to redress the areas affected by the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear fallout in the former Soviet Union.

The UN’s action plan was based on scientific studies from the 2005 Chernobyl Forum, which brought member states Belarus, Russia and Ukraine together with experts from the IAEA and seven of the world’s most influential development agencies, including the World Bank Group, WHO and UNSCEAR.

The Chernobyl Forum noted that the Chernobyl nuclear accident was a “low-dose event”. It stated, “The vast majority of people living in contaminated areas are in fact highly unlikely to experience negative health effects from radiation exposure and can safely raise families where they are today.”

Caldicott said of WHO, “They didn’t do any studies of Chernobyl, they just did estimates.” She cited a 2009 report by the New York Academy of Sciences, which painted a different picture. ☹

Picture: Ana Pancenko, one of the many Ukrainian children affected by the Chernobyl disaster. Credit: José Luis Baños/IPS



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Radiation from uranium mining

The IAEA promotes “safe, responsible development of uranium resources”, the raw materials used to fuel nuclear reactors and build nuclear bombs.

For Ashish Birulee, a Ho tribal resident of Jadugoda, India, safe uranium mining in his community is far from reality, and the health effects of radiation are as clear as the photographs he has taken to document them. Birulee, a student and photojournalist, lives next to a tailings dam, filled with radioactive waste from a uranium purification plant operated by the Uranium Corporation of India.

“Lung cancer, skin cancer, tumours, congenital deformities, down syndrome, mental retardation, megacephaly, sterility, infertility in married couples, thalassemia [and] rare birth defects like Gastroschisis [are] common in the area,” he told IPS.

“We are like guinea pigs here,” he said, citing government negligence on the matter. “I’m experiencing everyday radiation exposure and also witnessing how my people are suffering.”

Radiation from nuclear tests

During the Cold War, the Soviet Union conducted 456 nuclear tests at the Semipalatinsk test site in present day Kazakhstan.

“Based on information collected during the missions and subsequent research, there is sufficient evidence to indicate that most of the area has little or no residual radioactivity directly attributed to nuclear tests in Kazakhstan,” according to the IAEA.

But the IAEA narrative differs from those who live around Semipalatinsk. According to the preparatory committee for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), “A number of genetic defects and illnesses in the region, ranging from cancers to impotency to birth defects and other deformities, have been attributed to nuclear testing.”

Original <> <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/06/u-n-downplays-health-effects-of-nuclear-radiation/>

JAPANESE

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=967:un-downplays-health-effects-of-nuclear-radiation&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=968:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

“There is even a museum of mutations at the regional medical institute in Semey, the largest city near the old nuclear testing site,” it noted. “What radiation does – gamma, alpha or beta – is it either kills the cell or changes the biochemistry of the DNA molecule,” Caldicott, who has worked on nuclear issues for 43 years, explained. “One day [the cell] will start to divide by mitosis in an unregulated way, producing literally trillions and trillions of [mutated] cells, and that’s a cancer,” she said.

“You don’t know you’ve been exposed to radiation,” Caldicott pointed out. “You can’t taste or see radioactive elements in the food, and when the cancer develops, of course it doesn’t denote its origin.”

Fukushima on the Hudson

Meanwhile, two nuclear plants at Indian Point Energy Centre – just 60 kilometres upriver from UN headquarters in New York – are fighting for new licences, making the health and radiation question more relevant to diplomats from the 193 UN member states who live and work in the area. Critics have dubbed Indian Point, which sits on two fault lines, as “Fukushima on the Hudson”, in reference to the nuclear disaster in Japan that was sparked by an earthquake and a tsunami.

However, there are a few differences between Fukushima and Indian Point. “Fukushima was directly over the ocean, and the winds were favourable. They were blowing most of the radiation out to sea,” said Manna Jo Greene, environmental director for Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, noting that the remaining radiation was still disastrous.

But the winds in New York would blow plumes of radiation from north to south and from east to west. “There are 20 million people living within [100 kilometres], and there are 9 million people between Indian Point and the nearest ocean,” Greene told IPS. “If there was a problem at Indian Point,” she added, “there’s a very good chance that the radiation could move in a southeasterly direction and expose millions of people to radiation before it blew out to sea.” [IPS | June 26, 2013]



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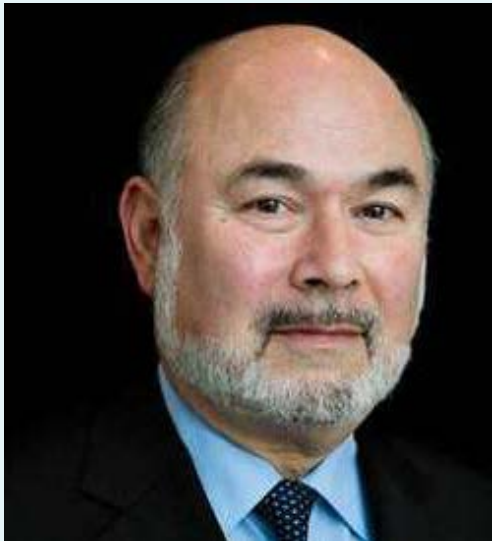
By THALIF DEEN



UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - When the 193-member UN General Assembly (UNGA) holds its first-ever high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament next September, there is little or no hope that any of the nuclear powers will make a firm commitment to gradually phase out or abandon their lethal arsenals.

At the beginning of 2013, eight states – UK, the United States, Russia, France, China, India, Pakistan and Israel – possessed approximately 4,400 operational nuclear weapons, according to the latest Yearbook released June 3 by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Nearly 2,000 of these are kept in a state of high operational alert, SIPRI said.



Jonathan Granoff (Image credit: universalnewswires) president of the Global Security Institute and adjunct professor of International Law at the Widener University School of Law, told IPS, “What is needed to counteract the slow pace in arms control and disarmament is higher political profile.”

For example, he said, if certain leaders were to say at the General Assembly, “My country is one of 114 countries in a nuclear weapons-free zone. We want to help countries relying on nuclear weapons for security to obtain the benefits of helping to make the entire world a nuclear weapons-free zone.”

The SIPRI report highlights the need to bring commitments made solemnly at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

Review Conference in 2012 to advance nuclear disarmament into action.

Promises must mean something, said Granoff.

If all nuclear warheads are counted, says SIPRI, these eight states together possess a total of approximately 17,265 nuclear weapons, as compared with 19,000 at the beginning of 2012.

The decrease is due mainly to Russia and the United States further reducing their inventories of strategic nuclear weapons under the terms of the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START), as well as retiring ageing and obsolescent weapons.

At the same time, says SIPRI, all five legally recognised nuclear weapons states – China, France, Russia, Britain and the United States – are either deploying new nuclear weapon delivery systems or have announced programmes to do so, and appear determined to retain their nuclear arsenals indefinitely.

Of the five, only China seems to be expanding its nuclear arsenal. And of the others, India and Pakistan are both expanding their nuclear weapon stockpiles and missile delivery capabilities.

“Once again there was little to inspire hope that the nuclear weapon-possessing states are genuinely willing to give up their nuclear arsenals,” according to SIPRI.

“The long-term modernisation programmes under way in these states suggest that nuclear weapons are still a marker of international status and power,” says Shannon Kile, senior researcher at SIPRI’s Project on Nuclear Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation.

Asked if the upcoming UNGA disarmament conference will produce anything tangible towards the elimination of nuclear weapons, Kile told IPS that in light of current trends in global nuclear arsenals, the General Assembly cannot be reasonably expected to be able to adopt concrete measures that will require the nuclear weapon-possessing states to begin eliminating these weapons or to change their nuclear force postures and operational practices. ➔



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However, the positive role the UNGA can play in terms of strengthening existing norms and political commitments to pursue nuclear disarmament should not be underestimated, Kile said.

This involves, first and foremost, maintaining political pressure on the nuclear weapon-possessing states to reduce the role and salience of nuclear weapons in their national security strategies and defence postures.

This could be done, for example, by persuading these states to adopt explicit declaratory policies ruling out the first-use of nuclear weapons, and to provide legally-binding negative security assurances – that is, guarantees not to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states.

In the longer term, he said, the UNGA can contribute to and strengthen efforts to devalue nuclear weapons as a currency of international geopolitics and to delegitimise their possession.

“This will admittedly be a part of a long-term process that will require considerable patience and diplomatic persistence but its normative significance should not be overlooked,” Kile added.

Granoff told IPS the deals the administration of President Barack Obama believed it had to make to get the START Treaty ratified in the U.S. Senate included modernisation of aspects of the nuclear arsenal. Some modernisation simply keeps the weapons in a stable situation while others actually improve accuracy and reliability and could be construed as a form of vertical proliferation, he said.

“Such activities should not be funded, but even if they are, they are not being brought into practice because of military geo strategic planning,” Granoff said. However, he said, it is not the case that such actions affirm the status of nuclear weapons or a commitment to abrogate pledges under the NPT to move toward a nuclear weapons-free world.

Original <> <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/06/u-n-can-help-devalue-nukes-as-geopolitical-currency/>

JAPANESE

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=958:un-can-help-devalue-nukes-as-geopolitical-currency-japanese&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=959:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

“They only represent short term political deals necessary in an extremely difficult domestic partisan environment to achieve modest arms control measures,” Kile said. But to say that the policy is not to move in the correct direction is incorrect, he added.

Granoff said there is a new open-ended working group in Geneva that will come up with recommendations. Norway recently hosted a large conference with many countries highlighting the horrific humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. These activities bode well for our future, he said.

“It is odd that the P5 (UK, United States, Russia, France and China) did not participate in these activities,” Granoff added. “It shows, however, that they can cooperate and come up with the same strategy and positions when they want.

“Our job is to help push the issue of the abolition of nuclear weapons up the political ladder so that they will cooperate on disarmament,” he said.

Asked about the absence of North Korea from the list of nuclear weapon states, Kile told IPS, “The section of the Yearbook’s nuclear forces chapter dealing with North Korea’s nuclear weapon capabilities notes that it is not known whether North Korea has produced operational (militarily usable) nuclear weapons.”

An operational weapon is not the same as a simple nuclear explosive device and would require more advanced design and engineering skills to build, he said.

“We have published in SIPRI Yearbook 2013 the estimate of six to eight nuclear weapons to indicate the maximum number that North Korea may possess, based on publicly-available information about its plutonium production activities.

“But again, it is unclear whether North Korea has actually produced operational nuclear weapons, so we did not include it in the table in the press release,” he added.

[IPS | June 3, 2013]



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What Others Say

Nuclear Deterrence Works in Indo-Pak Ties

By A. VINOD KUMAR*



NEW DELHI (IDN | [IDSA](#)) - For over two decades, a dominant section of western analysts harped on the volatilities of the India and Pakistan nuclear dyad, often overselling the 'South Asia as a nuclear flashpoint' axiom, and portending a potential nuclear flare-up in every major stand-off between the two countries. The turbulence in the sub-continent propelled such presages, with one crisis after another billowing towards serious confrontations, but eventually easing out on all occasions.

While the optimists described this as evidence of nuclear deterrence gradually consolidating in this dyad, the pessimists saw in it the ingredients of instability that could lead to a nuclear conflict.

Though there is no denial of the fact that the three major crises since the 1998 nuclear tests – Kargil (1999), the Parliament attack and Operation Parakram (2001-2002) and the Mumbai terror strike (2008) – brought the two rivals precariously close to nuclear showdowns, not once had their leaderships lost complete faith in the efficacy of mutual deterrence. Fifteen years after the nuclear tests, it is relevant to examine if deterrence remains weak in this dyad or has consolidated towards greater stability.

Complex deterrence matrix

With its history of deep-rooted hostility, the South Asian binary went through a tumultuous evolution of deterrence structures and postures. The early years were marked by limited war and terror strikes literally validating the western notion of an unstable region. India's perceptibly transparent no-first-use (NFU) doctrine was met with a policy of strategic ambiguity from Pakistan, which preferred to keep its nuclear first-use option open and at the same time refusing to declare its threshold(s).

The proclaimed aim was to deter India at all levels of military action – sub-conventional, conventional or nuclear. India's military might was cited as justification for such postural asymmetry.

The unprofessed objective though was to carve out a space to sustain the low-intensity conflict (Kashmir insurgency and terror strikes in Indian heartland) while mitigating any Indian retaliation. With its nuclear brinkmanship behaviour fuelling global paranoia, the early years of nuclearisation and its primal instability was proving to benefit Pakistan with no decisive Indian challenge to its sub-conventional influx.

Many Indian analysts highlighted this as evidence of the doctrinal imbalance, with some questioning the efficacy of nuclear deterrence against Pakistan and a few others even demanding a review of India's NFU posture. Though

the Indian leadership upheld the NFU as sacrosanct, the need to challenge the *status quo* began to be felt after the 2001-2002 crises.

Largely attributed to the 'lessons' of Operation Parakram (which proved to be a costly mobilisation effort with scope for rapid escalation), the Indian Army initiated a major doctrinal shift at the conventional level through what is termed as the 'Cold Start' strategy.

With its plan for rapid battle-group thrusts into Pakistani territory without hitting its perceived nuclear tripwires, the military leadership conceived the possibility of calling Pakistan's 'nuclear bluff' by taking its response to Pakistani soil.

Though backed by an incipient belief that the space for a limited conventional war exists, Cold Start embodied India's resolve to alter the deterrence landscape without disturbing the nuclear doctrinal framework.

Albeit the feasibility of this strategy was consistently doubted, its signalling spin-off was immense as Pakistan began to doubt the credibility of its brinkmanship behaviour and ability to sustain the LIC without inviting India's retaliation.

Through an assortment of political campaigns (by hyping the Cold Start as escalatory) and technological responses (Nasr tactical nuclear missile, Babar and Ra'ad cruise missiles), Pakistan struggled to project confidence in its deterrent. ➡



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The lack of a unitary effort from the security establishment to promote the Cold Start and the Indian Army eventually having to disown it (by renaming as proactive strategy) largely denoted the efficacy of Pakistan's campaign, aided in some measure by the western alarmists.

Yet, its introduction marked a complex game of deterrence: while one actor propagated a proactive nuclear posture to feed its sub-conventional plan, the other responded with a proactive conventional posture for a range of non-nuclear responses.

The official silence on Cold Start matched by Pakistan's refusal to brand the Nasr as a tactical nuclear response only added to this complexity, until the recent articulation by the Chairman of India's National Security Advisory Board (NSAB).¹

By clarifying that India will not differentiate between tactical and strategic nuclear weapons and will consider any such use against its forces or territory as a first-strike (implicitly inviting nuclear retaliation), the security establishment has belatedly implied the existence of its proactive strategy.

The next stage in this deterrence churning could come in the form of Pakistan's response to the latest Indian posturing, even as western observers anticipate India's proactive military plan to see action after the next major terror strike.

Tryst with doctrinal realignments

While its tryst with doctrinal realignments continues, India initiated a decisive new level of posturing, with greater implications for the deterrence calculus, by introducing ballistic missile defence (BMD) into the scene. Although India's BMD programme originated out of concerns on Pakistan's missile prowess and the China-Pakistan proliferation nexus, the rapid advances on India's BMD platforms has emerged as a potent challenge to Pakistan's deterrent.

Despite the fact that interception technologies are still evolving and are yet to guarantee leak-proof protection, the Indian programme is geared towards developing an extended area defence capability, and possibly a nationwide shield, that could limit the damage from Pakistani (and Chinese) missiles, if not absolute destruction.

With no technological counter of its own, but for the nascent cruise missile inventory (with limited engagement scope against BMD systems), Pakistan realises that India's pursuit of a multi-tier interception

network will negate its first-strike advantage, and could provide India with greater defensive depth, which it argues, could encourage India towards pre-emption.

Besides the fact that even a failed first-use might invite Indian retaliation, the shift in the deterrence calculus is such that even a marginally-effective Indian BMD could diminish the combative edge of Pakistan's strategic forces.

Similar to its response to the Cold Start, Pakistan is now projecting missile defence as causal for instability and had reportedly argued against its deployment at the recent talks on nuclear Confidence Building Measures (CBMs). Consequently, Pakistan attempted a weakly-devised signalling effort in May 2012 by declaring a survivable second-strike capability on its naval platforms.²

While the strategic component of its naval platforms remains unclear, the fact that Pakistan declared a second-strike alternative (after years of reliance on its first-strike posture) is intrinsically a reflection of its desperation on the Indian BMD. However, with no takers for this signalling effort,³ Pakistan may now be left with fewer options, including: (a) developing its own BMD capability, which could be too costly for its sinking economy,⁴ and (b) seek technological assistance from China or acquisition of its air and missile defence systems.

What now?

Fifteen years of nuclear South Asia was all about a paradoxical deterrence seesaw that was intense, yet not unstable enough to cause its failure. After the gains that Pakistan accrued from the initial asymmetry, the scales are now favouring India with its doctrinal rejuvenation and technological advances. Events like the Indo-US nuclear deal, the Abbottabad operation and restoration of democracy in Pakistan have also impacted this turnaround.

While Pakistan attempted to match India's nuclear deal advantage by feverishly augmenting its fissile stocks, the Abbottabad operation eroded the credibility of its Army and diminished its leverage in the India-Pakistan reconciliation process.

With its leading political parties now favouring improved relations with India, there is scope for a postural balancing that could contribute to greater stability between the two nuclear neighbours. President Zardari's suggestion for Pakistan's adoption of a NFU posture is one such step that the new civilian government could consider in this direction. ☺



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However, as is a well-known fact, it will be the Pakistani army which will have the final say on nuclear policy issues. Besides resisting any such proposal to alter its nuclear policy, the army will have the strongest urge to counter India's recent gains by triggering newer crises. But with conditions no longer favouring any strategy of brinkmanship, the onus may now shift on to the civilian government to devise a postural transformation that could project Pakistan as a more responsible and rational nuclear power.

This is an imperative forced upon Pakistan not just by the current strategic environment, but also will be a factor in determining its future status in the normative structures of the non-proliferation regime.

1. Ambassador Shyam Saran clarified on the Indian approach in a lecture on April 24, 2013 in New Delhi titled: "Is India's Nuclear Deterrent Credible?" Text available at: http://ris.org.in/images/RIS_images/pdf/Final%20Is%20India's%20Nuclear%20Deterrent%20Credible-%20rev1%20%202.pdf. Also see Shyam Saran, "Weapon that has more than symbolic value," *The Hindu*, May 4, 2013. Amb. Saran's exposition is seen as a typical signalling exercise by a high-ranking personality who is not within the government, but represents its thinking. A similar earlier example was the handful of articles by prominent ex-officials describing Pakistan's response to India's draft nuclear doctrine.

2. See "Naval Chief Inaugurates Naval Strategic Forces Headquarters," No. PR122/2012-ISPR, May 19, 2012, http://www.ispr.gov.pk/front/main.asp?o=t-press_release&id=2067.

3. Despite the declaration being through an Inter-Services Public Relations press release, the absence of any major response was surprising, considering that the ISPR releases is an oft-relied medium for Pakistan's official statements and posturing.

4. Comparisons are already drawn with the US-Soviet competition of the 1980s, wherein the Strategic Defence Initiative or Star Wars was supposed to have economically bled the Soviet Union towards disintegration. Some Pakistani voices have termed the Indian BMD as a similar effort to draw Pakistan into an unaffordable arms race.



*A. Vinod Kumar is Associate Fellow at Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. Views expressed are of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the IDSA or of the Government of India. A version of this article first appeared on IDSA on June 10, 2013. [IDN-InDepthNews – June 30, 2013]

Image on page 12: A cylindrical shaped nuclear bomb, Shakti I, prior to its detonation in May 1998
Credit: Wikimedia Commons

The screenshot shows the IDSA website interface. The main article is titled "15-Years after Pokhran II: Deterrence Churning Continues" by A. Vinod Kumar, dated June 10, 2013. The article text discusses the evolution of deterrence structures and postures in the South Asian region, mentioning the 2001-2002 crisis and the 2008 nuclear tests. It notes that the Indian military might was used as justification for such postural exercises. The website also features a sidebar with navigation links like "HOME", "ABOUT US", "LIBRARY", "PUBLICATIONS", "MEMBERSHIP", and "CONTACT US". There are also sections for "RELATED ARTICLES" and "RELATED FORCES".

<http://www.idsa.in>



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Tangible Actions Needed Now For Nuke Abolition

By HIROTSUGU TERASAKI*

TOKYO - President Obama's speech in Berlin on June 19 is a welcome reaffirmation of his commitment to achieving a world free from nuclear weapons. The readiness he expresses to pursue further reductions in the US and Russian nuclear arsenals represents a concrete step toward this goal.

To make good on its stated commitments, the US administration now needs to establish a path of tangible actions to move beyond a world of decreased nuclear risks to reach the goal of nuclear weapons abolition. As President Obama's stance makes clear, the doctrine of nuclear deterrence can no longer make any meaningful contribution to the security of any state. This is something the world's ordinary citizens have long known: holding humanity hostage to nuclear Armageddon makes no one safe.

In view of the risks, effects and costs of nuclear weapons, there is both the practical necessity and the moral imperative to rid the world of those apocalyptic weapons. The time has come to initiate negotiations on a treaty that will prohibit nuclear weapons.

While this goal may seem to be a distant or even unrealistic one to some, it is not beyond our reach. As SGI President Daisaku Ikeda has pointed out: "In order to achieve real security in the twenty-first century we need to bring forth the powers of imagination that will enable us to directly and accurately apprehend evolving realities, to guide these changes toward the desired direction and to give birth to entirely new realities."

Speaking in Berlin, President Obama has again demonstrated his unique talent for taking the lessons of the past as a vantage-point from which to offer visions of a more hopeful future. Hiroshima and Nagasaki would be the most appropriate possible venues for a speech in which to announce

*Hirotsugu Terasaki is Vice President, Soka Gakkai and Executive Director, [Soka Gakkai International](#) Peace Affairs. [June 20, 2013]

Read also by the writer: [Nukes Indefensible on Humanitarian Grounds](#)

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=927:nukes-indefensible-on-humanitarian-grounds&catid=16:nuclear-abolition-news-and-analysis&Itemid=17



concrete steps toward the realization of his stated goal of a world free from nuclear weapons.

The work for eliminating nuclear weapons must be a global enterprise, shared by all members of the human family. Every actor—the nuclear weapons states, the states that have refrained from developing these weapons and, most critically, the world's people—must play a role. The SGI is committed to building grassroots awareness in order to empower people's efforts toward the prohibition and abolition of nuclear weapons. □





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The Importance of Dr Ikeda's Peace Proposals

By ALEXANDER HARANG

Director of the Norwegian Peace Association

As an internationally oriented peace activist, the 26th of January is always a good day to look forward to. This is the day when Ikeda's peace proposal for the coming year is presented - a great source of wisdom and inspiration for peace activists all over the world. In this article I will present some propositions for further international cooperation on two of the topics Ikeda focus upon in this years peace proposal, but firstly give some general remarks on how this peace proposal is read by a Norwegian peace activist.



ourselves much more to this eastern wisdom, and I find Ikeda's annual peace proposals incredibly helpful in this regard.

Ikeda is a master of explaining Shakyamuni's ways and trails of thought through the prism of engaged Buddhism. Even if the readers of Ikeda's peace proposals are of non-Buddhist belief and culture, Ikeda's creative and solution based approach to peace politics should be an inspiration to all readers. An example of Ikeda's communicating a Buddhist peace tradition in the 2013 proposal is his proposal of three commitments as guidelines for our actions: the determination to share the joys and sufferings of others, faith in the limitless possibilities of life and the vow to defend and celebrate diversity. These guidelines obviously stem from core Buddhist beliefs. However, the values these guidelines carry in practical peace work are almost universal to all peace movements. No matter what culture we work within, we still constitute a culture of peace as fellow peace workers. Ikeda addresses this culture of peace directly in his peace proposals, which is something we all should take note of.

A Buddhist peace perspective to learn from

Living in Norway, where very few people are Buddhist, I find Ikeda's annual peace proposals very useful for introducing Buddhist peace perspectives to my fellow peace activists. In my view, Ikeda's peace proposals explain contemporary peace politics from a Buddhist perspective in a graspable and thought provoking way. Ikeda present several well-known peace policies, which in essence are shared within the global peace movement on all continents, and explains these policies through what I understand as a Buddhist peace tradition. Unfortunately, this tradition is largely unknown to the western public. I personally believe that we as western peace activists should open

This year's peace proposal outlines several timely and concrete policies for peace, that we as peace activists should address globally. Ikeda speaks of the abolition of nuclear weapons, the need to disarm for the sake of global sustainable development, how to improve Sino-Japanese relations, the importance of the rights of the child and the need to promote a culture of human rights. Because of space constraints, I will focus only upon the two first issues in this comment; nuclear abolition and disarmament for development. My hope is that the organisation I represent, the Norwegian Peace Association, can develop closer cooperation with SGI on these issues in the near future.

Outlawing nuclear weapons as inhumane

As his mentor Toda, Ikeda takes a clear stand on the inhumane nature of all nuclear weapons. In his 2013 peace proposal, Ikeda holds that it is now crucial that we attend to the core problem of nuclear weapons, which is their underlying inhumanity. Ikeda stresses the fact that these weapons do not distinguish between combatants and non-combatants, their severe impact on the environment and most importantly: the fact that these weapons represent an outright negation of the dignity of life. I personally couldn't agree more to Ikeda's analyses of the issue. ☺



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Today, we see a new and broader movement for outlawing nuclear weapons as inhumane. Ikeda has a very important voice within this movement, and he also addresses the importance of the current global mobilisation for a ban on nuclear weapons in his 2013 peace proposal by saying that: "In my proposal last year, I called for the establishment of an action group for a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC), composed of NGOs and forward-looking governments. It is my strong hope that, through these conferences, a growing core of NGOs and governments [...] will develop, and that they will, if at all possible before year's end, initiate the process of drafting a treaty to outlaw nuclear weapons on the basis of their inhumane nature." The success of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) shows that Ikeda's hope for 2013 is within reach. The ICAN success is also a daily reminder of the timeliness of Ikeda's call to ban all nuclear weapons as inhumane right now. SGI and the Norwegian Peace Association are both partner

In the 2013 peace proposal, Ikeda shows us the linkages in the call for humanitarian nuclear disarmament from the Non Proliferation Treaty review in New York in May 2010 up to the Oslo conference on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons in March 2013.

This Oslo conference mentioned by Ikeda in his peace proposal turned out to be a great success. The Norwegian minister of Foreign Affairs, who hosted the conference, summed it up to the 127 attending states as follows: "We have succeeded in reframing the issue of nuclear weapons". This is more than many of us had dared hoping for. Mexico has announced its intention to host a follow-up to the Oslo conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, and everyone working for a treaty banning nuclear weapons now knows that the game is irrevocably on.

To seize this opportunity, ICAN organized a series of events in and around the Oslo conference. In the run up to March, campaigners from more than 60 countries reached out to their governments, contributing to a remarkably high turnout. In the days immediately preceding the Oslo conference, around 500 campaigners, 33 speakers, and 30 marketplace organizers from more than 60 countries and more than 130 different organizations attended a global civil society forum at Chateau Neuf in Oslo.

I had the pleasure of meeting SGI representatives from Asia, Europe and America at this civil society forum, which also hosted the SGI- ICAN exhibition: "Everything You Treasure- For a World Free from Nuclear Weapons." After the Oslo conference, the question is no longer whether a treaty banning nuclear weapons will be achieved. From now on, the questions are when and how.

Ikeda also gives us a broader analysis of challenges and opportunities for nuclear disarmament in his 2013 peace proposal, dealing with more technical issues such as extended nuclear deterrence/ nuclear umbrellas, nuclear weapon free zones, NATO doctrine and the NPT review process. I cannot go into all details on all of this here, but only conclude that the Norwegian Peace Associations reasoning on these issues are all in line with Ikeda's analysis and conclusions. I am therefore looking forward to further and deeper cooperation on nuclear disarmament with SGI in the time to come.

Disarmament for Development

Ikeda makes a very important call for the need to disarm the world in order to enable sustainable development for the future in his 2013 peace proposal. This is also an area where deeper cooperation is needed between SGI and other peace movements in the time to come. Disarmament for development is also a very important theme for the Norwegian Peace Association.

In the 2013 peace proposal, Ikeda propose making both disarmament and a culture of human rights part of the Sustainable Development Goals from 2015 onwards. More specifically, Ikeda proposes that we should work to cut the worlds global military expenditure by 50 % relative to the 2010 levels by 2030. This is to direct the resources saved through disarmament to sustainable development. In terms of dollars, Ikeda's proposal could imply redirecting approximately 870 billion USD annually from conventional military expenditure to more constructive investments in global sustainable development. In addition to this, as Ikeda proposes to abolish all nuclear weapons, the annual cost of these weapons (approximately 105 billion USD) will also need to be redirected to the same cause. If we therefore follow Ikeda's vision, our goal should be to redirect close to a thousand billion USD globally from military expenditure to sustainable development. In my mind, this sounds like a magnificent ambition.

In the 2013 peace proposal, Ikeda recognizes the International Peace Bureau (IPB) and its work in advocating the global reduction of military spending globally. Ikeda says that the SGI supports this out of the awareness that disarmament today is humanitarian action. The most important annual activity that the IPB coordinates globally in this field is the Global Day of Action on Military Spending (GDAMS). This year, GDAMS will be taking place all over the world on the 15th of April. The Norwegian Peace Association takes the lead in marking this day in Norway, inviting civil society to come together to call for less money to be spent on military and more to be spent on global sustainable development. If the SGI would like to cooperate with us in any way on this matter, we would be very happy to do so. [PDNA]



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CND Welcomes Obama's Call For Cuts To Nuclear Arsenals



(June 19, 2013) The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) has welcomed President Obama's 'vital' call for cuts in US and Russian nuclear arsenals.

Speaking today at Berlin's iconic Brandenburg Gate, Barack Obama said 'we may no longer live in fear of nuclear annihilation, but so long as nuclear weapons exist we are not truly safe.'

He committed to nuclear stockpile reductions of 'up to one third' and to work for 'negotiated cuts with Russia to move beyond Cold War nuclear postures'.

The move builds on the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) – a bilateral agreement between the US and Russia, which has had some successes in reductions of their respective nuclear stockpiles.

Obama's speech also included a call for 'bold reductions in US and Russian tactical nuclear weapons in Europe', a push for US ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the announcement of a US-hosted nuclear security summit in 2016.

Kate Hudson, General Secretary of CND, said 'We welcome President Obama's call for further reductions in US and Russian nuclear stockpiles. His proposals, which echo his speech against nuclear weapons in Prague in 2009, give voice to the concerns of billions around the world who wish to see a world without these catastrophic weapons.'

'Too often, global insecurities are cited as the reason for the development and modernisation of nuclear arsenals. In April of this year, Prime Minister David Cameron shallowly demonstrated this by stoking fears over North Korea in order to promote replacement of the UK's Trident nuclear weapon system. But it is clear that nuclear weapons *fuel* such insecurities and contribute to further nuclear proliferation: it is dead-end thinking.'

'Today's proposals for reductions in the two largest nuclear arsenals in the world are a vital step towards a world without nuclear weapons. But in contradiction to the spirit of this initiative, both the US and Russia are modernising their nuclear forces.'

'The only way to create genuine peace and security for future generations is to follow up these admirable words with concrete actions.' [Source: <http://www.cnduk.org/cnd-media/item/1688-cnd-welcomes-obamas-call-for-cuts-to-nuclear-arsenals>] □

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Civil Society Perspective

What Has Obama Got To Offer?

By Kate Hudson, General Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

[June 28, 2013] United States President Barack Obama's recent Berlin speech has raised the profile of nuclear disarmament once again, pledging a number of useful advances. He committed to nuclear stockpile reductions of "up to one third" and to work for "negotiated cuts with Russia to move beyond Cold War nuclear postures". And he included a call for "bold reductions in US and Russian tactical nuclear weapons in Europe", a push for American ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty – or CTBT - and the announcement of a US-hosted nuclear security summit in 2016.

Yet despite Obama's apparent continued commitment to the goal of global abolition, he did not quite take us to the dizzy heights of hope and emotion stirred by his Prague speech in 2009. And maybe that is because since then we have seen that whatever his intentions, he has been unable to deliver on his disarmament promises without at the same time pledging modernisation of nuclear weaponry and pursuing new systems which void the 'deterrent' effect of his potential opponents' nuclear weapons.

And we can see that much of what Obama has spoken of in Berlin was on the Prague list too, so progress has been slow. Ratifying the CTBT and moving forward on a fissile material treaty were both there in Prague and are still there now, as are the questions of nuclear security and access to civil nuclear power. Looking back, it is clear that the ratification of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty – START - was the only real achievement out of Obama's 2009 initiative, with some success in reducing their respective nuclear stockpiles.

Further reductions would be very welcome but the response from Russia has so far been underwhelming. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has insisted that any further treaties have to involve all nuclear weapons states as further reductions will make their arsenals comparable, stating: "This means that further moves possibly proposed for reduction of actual strategic offensive arms will have to be reviewed in a multilateral format." And he extended that proviso to all states that have developed nuclear weapons, whether or not they are in the nuclear non-proliferation treaty: "And I'm talking not just official nuclear powers but all countries that possess nuclear weapons," he added.

Lavrov also re-raised the knotty problem of American insistence on pursuing its so-called missile defence system in Europe, under the auspices of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. Those plans almost derailed the New START Treaty in 2009, as Russia not surprisingly believes that the system is aimed at removing Russia's ability to strike back effectively after a first strike from the US.

And Obama is not having an easy time of it at home either. Since Berlin, a number of Republican senators have jumped up to denounce the president in no uncertain terms with Kelly Ayotte describing his intentions as misguided and dangerous. So there are many obstacles to further progress on nuclear disarmament, to put it mildly. Although the picture would not be complete without recognising the impact of the financial crisis on public opinion and changing perceptions of security needs. Whether in the US or the United Kingdom, there is increasing hostility to spending on nuclear weapons. They are widely perceived as wasteful and anachronistic. People feel they are failing to meet 21st century threats such as terrorism, cyber warfare or climate change.

On top of that we are seeing an increased offensive by non-nuclear states against continued nuclear weapon possession by a small number of powerful countries, in contravention of their international treaty requirements. New research has shown the devastating climate impact of even a small nuclear exchange. With a reduction in temperature impacting on crop production, a billion could die of starvation never mind those dying in the blast or of radiation.

The International Red Cross has now spoken out against nuclear weapons on humanitarian grounds as there would be no possibility of meeting the needs of any survivors. Whatever the problems Obama faces as a result of entrenched opinion or vested interests, there can be no doubt that if he can overcome them and move forward on nuclear disarmament - he would leave the most valuable and remarkable legacy that anyone could achieve; an end to the possibility of nuclear annihilation.

[Source: <http://www.cnduk.org/cnd-media/item/1691-what-has-obama-got-to-offer?>] □

This blog was first published on www.publicserviceeurope.com



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

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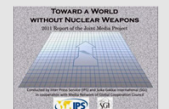


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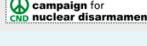
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Nuclear Abolition News and Analysis

Obama Magic is Gone – Caution Outweighs Zeal

Nuclear Abolition News | IDN

By RAMESH JAURA*

BERLIN (IDN) - President Barack Obama's commitment four years ago 'to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons' reverberated across the globe generating hope that humankind will not be annihilated by a sheer flash of light. On June 19 in Berlin he sought to build on the iconic Prague speech. But there was no magic filling the air.



The reason, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) General Secretary Kate Hudson wrote on June 28 in her blog "... despite Obama's apparent continued commitment to the goal of global abolition, he did not quite take us to the dizzy heights of hope and emotion stirred by his Prague speech in 2009." [P]

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Nuclear Deterrence Works in Indo-Pak Ties



Nuclear Abolition News | IDN

By A. VINOD KUMAR*

NEW DELHI (IDN | IDSA) - For over two decades, a dominant section of western analysts harped on the volatilities of the India and Pakistan nuclear dyad, often overselling the 'South Asia as a nuclear flashpoint' axiom, and portending a potential nuclear flare-up in every major stand-off between the two countries. The turbulence in the sub-continent propelled such presages, with one crisis after another billowing towards serious confrontations, but eventually easing out on all occasions.

While the optimists described this as evidence of nuclear deterrence gradually consolidating in this dyad, the pessimists saw in it the ingredients of instability that could lead to a nuclear conflict.

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UN Downplays Health Effects of Nuclear Radiation

Nuclear Abolition News | IPS

By GEORGE GAO

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - The United Nations has come under criticism from medical experts and members of civil society for what these critics consider inaccurate statements about the effects of lingering radioactivity on local populations.

Scientists and doctors met with top U.N. officials last week to discuss the effects of radioactivity in Japan and Ukraine, and the U.N. has enlisted several of its agencies, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the U.N. Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), to address the matter.

In May UNSCEAR stated that radiation exposure following the 2011 Fukushima-Daichii nuclear disaster in Japan poses "no immediate health risks" and that long-term health risks are "unlikely". [P] JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF

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Tangible Actions Needed Now For Nuke Abolition



Nuclear Abolition News/Viewpoint

By HIROTSUGU TERASAKI*

TOKYO - President Obama's speech in Berlin on June 19 is a welcome reaffirmation of his commitment to achieving a world free from nuclear weapons. The readiness he expresses to pursue further reductions in the US and Russian nuclear arsenals represents a concrete step toward this goal.

To make good on its stated commitments, the US administration now needs to establish a path of tangible actions to move beyond a world of decreased nuclear risks to reach the goal of nuclear weapons abolition.

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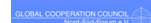


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A Monthly Newsletter for Strengthening Awareness of Nuclear Abolition

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Publisher: Global Cooperation Council (umbrella organisation of IPS-Inter Press Service Deutschland GmbH, Berlin)
SGI-IPS Project Director: Katsuhiko Asagiri, President IPS Japan, Tokyo
SGI-IPS Project Coordinator & Editor-in-Charge: Ramesh Jaura
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