



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH AUGUST 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

Nuclear Test Moratorium Threatened By North Korean Impunity



When the United Nations commemorates the International Day Against Nuclear Tests on Aug. 29, the lingering question in the minds of most anti-nuclear activists is whether or not the existing moratorium on testing will continue to be honoured – or occasionally violated with impunity. John Loretz, programme director at International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, told IPS that since the 1990s the moratorium has been honoured by most states with nuclear weapons. The exceptions, he pointed out, have been India and Pakistan, both of which tested nuclear weapons in 1998, but have not done so since then, and North Korea,

which has conducted three very small tests since 2006. > Pages 2-3

ICAN Australia Shows The Way To Abolish Nukes



Even as the nuclear-armed countries continue to amass new warheads and build and modernise ballistic missiles, bombers and submarines to launch them, the campaign for nuclear abolition is growing from strength to strength. International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons' (ICAN) Paper Cranes Project – symbolizing support for nuclear disarmament – is urging governments to begin negotiations on a global treaty banning nuclear weapons this year. More than 190,000 paper cranes have already been delivered to world leaders, and messages of support have been

received from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and amongst others national leaders of Australia, Afghanistan, Greece, Kazakhstan, the Marshall Islands, Mozambique, Slovenia and Switzerland. > Pages 4-5-6

U.S.-Russia Rift Could Impact Upcoming Nuke Talks

The growing political rift between the United States and Russia triggered by the granting of temporary asylum to U.S. whistleblower Edward Snowden, who is now holed up in Moscow, is threatening to further undermine relations between the two superpowers at the United Nations. With the U.S. decision Wednesday to call off an upcoming summit meeting between U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin, which was scheduled to take place in Moscow early September, the negative fall-out is expected to have an impact on several politically sensitive issues. > Pages 7-8

What Others Say

Iran and P5+1 Talk About New Nuclear Talks

Preparations are afoot for a new, and perhaps a promising, round of talks between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany (P5+1) over Tehran's nuclear energy program. According to Press TV, Kazakhstan is willing to host the negotiations for the third time in succession this year. > Pages 9-10

India Can Be Nuclear Suppliers' Credible Partner

Some of the Nuclear Suppliers Group members are expressing unnecessary apprehensions regarding India's membership. Unlike China, India has a track record of complying with obligations of any treaty or agreement it signs. > Pages 11-12

Civil Society Perspective

Banning the Bomb Blast > Page 13

New Nuclear Weapons For The UK: A Challenge Labour Can't Dodge > Page 14



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Nuclear Test Moratorium Threatened By North Korean Impunity

By THALIF DEEN

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - When the United Nations commemorates the International Day Against Nuclear Tests on Aug. 29, the lingering question in the minds of most anti-nuclear activists is whether or not the existing moratorium on testing will continue to be honoured – or occasionally violated with impunity.

John Loretz, programme director at International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, told IPS that since the 1990s the moratorium has been honoured by most states with nuclear weapons.

The exceptions, he pointed out, have been India and Pakistan, both of which tested nuclear weapons in 1998, but have not done so since then, and North Korea, which has conducted three very small tests since 2006.

When Pyongyang conducted its third test in February 2013, the 15-member U.N. Security Council condemned the test as “a grave violation” of its previous resolutions and described North Korea as a country which is “a clear threat to international peace and security.”

And when the council adopted its third resolution, immediately following the third test, it expressed a determination to take “significant action” in the event of a “further” nuclear test by North Korea.

The annual International Day Against Nuclear Tests – observed on Aug. 29 but being commemorated at the U.N., with a seminar and an exhibition, on Sep. 5 – is an important way to raise awareness about nuclear weapons, said Loretz, and specifically “the continuing threat they pose to our health and survival and the imperative that we rid the world of them”.

Asked if the growing new rift between the United States and Russia will have a negative impact, Loretz admitted, “The rift is problematic, but I have no reason to think either country would resume nuclear testing as a result of a presumably temporary souring of the relationship.”

He said both countries are modernising their arsenals, however, and current problems could increase political pressure to do so further.

Currently, there are five declared nuclear weapon states – the United States, Britain, Russia, France and China, which are the five permanent members (P-5) of the Security Council – along with three undeclared nuclear weapon states – India, Pakistan and Israel.



But it has still not been determined whether North Korea should be designated a nuclear power. At least 430,000 people died of cancer by the year 2000 because of radioactive fallout.

Dale Dewar, executive director of Physicians for Global Survival, told IPS the world has somewhat successfully eliminated atmospheric and deep underground testing of nuclear weapons, although North Korea did the latter just a year ago.

The United States has embarked upon a plan for “subcritical nuclear testing” where no self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction can occur, she said. The behaviour of plutonium, an important component of nuclear weapons, can be observed during these tests.

The costs of the tests and testing facility are exorbitant. A single test costs around 20 million dollars, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and preparation for the test costs upwards of 100 million dollars.

Dewar said Physicians for Global Survival sees these costs as monies removed from health care, education and social services – taxpayer money that has been diverted for military and in this case theoretical science fictional future use.

“Were the bombs for which these tests are conducted ever used, the lives and health of hundreds of thousands, maybe millions, would be affected. There is no justification for continuing to possess such weapons, much less test them,” she asserted.

Tilman A. Ruff, associate professor at the Nossal Institute for Global Health at the University of Melbourne, told IPS an estimated 2,061 nuclear test explosions, conducted by eight or nine nations since 1945, have been used to develop nuclear weapons, fuelling the greatest immediate threat to global survival and health. ☺

Image credit: NK News



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In-Depth Reports

Test explosions themselves also exact a substantial and persisting environmental and human toll, he said. "Every person and living thing contains strontium-90 in their teeth and bones, cesium-137 inside their cells, carbon-14, plutonium-239 and other radioactive materials dispersed worldwide," said Ruff, who is also co-chair of the International Steering Group and Australian Board member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

He said a study by International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) found that at least 430,000 people died of cancer by the year 2000 because of this radioactive fallout, and over time, more than 2.4 million people will die of cancer caused by nuclear test explosions.

"In almost every case, nuclear test sites have been forced upon indigenous, minority and colonised peoples, and downwind communities and test site workers have suffered most," he noted.

At every nuclear test site, he pointed out, a long-term radioactive and toxic legacy remains along with yet unmet needs for clean-up and remediation, long-term environmental monitoring, and care and compensation for those affected.

These responsibilities rest with the governments that undertook the tests.

While underground nuclear tests disperse much less radioactive fallout into the atmosphere than above-ground tests, they shatter the surrounding rock and pose a long-term hazard for future generations of radioactive leakage into the environment and groundwater, Ruff declared.

Loretz told IPS the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) was adopted in 1996 but has not yet been ratified by enough states to enter into force.

The United States has signed but not ratified it, and a commonly shared opinion is that U.S. ratification, which is a necessity, would tip the balance and lead to the other ratifications required for entry into force, he said. "That's one big thing that remains to be done."

"Many of us have come to believe that CTBT ratification, while important and useful, is now secondary to the comprehensive treaty for which the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is campaigning." [IPS | August 27, 2013] □

Translations

Japanese Text Version

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=993:nuclear-test-moratorium-threatened-by-north-korean-impunity-japanese&catid=2:japanese-korean-bahasa&Itemid=3

北朝鮮の黙認で脅かされる核実験モラトリアム

【国連IPS＝タリフ・ディーン】

国連は今年も「核実験に反対する国際デー（8月29日。ただし国連では9月5日に記念セミナーや展示が行われる）」を迎えるが、多くの反核活動家の心に消えてなくなる疑問は、核実験モラトリアムが尊重され続けるのか、それとも、ときにそれが破られつつも黙認されるのか、ということだ。

「核戦争防止国際医師会議」（IPPNW）のプログラム・ディレクターであるジョン・ロレツ氏は、1990年代以来、モラトリアムは核兵器保有国のほとんどによって尊重されてきた、とIPSの取材に対して語った。

Japanese PDF

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Japanese/Japanese_Nuclear_Test_Moratorium_Threatened_by_North_Korean_Impunity.pdf

Swedish http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1001:nuclear-test-moratorium-threatened-by-north-korean-impunity-swedish&catid=11:norwegian-swedish&Itemid=12



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In-Depth Reports

ICAN Australia Shows The Way To Abolish Nukes

By NEENA BHANDARI

SYDNEY (IDN) - Even as the nuclear-armed countries continue to amass new warheads and build and modernise ballistic missiles, bombers and submarines to launch them, the campaign for nuclear abolition is growing from strength to strength.

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons' (ICAN) Paper Cranes Project – symbolizing support for nuclear disarmament – is urging governments to begin negotiations on a global treaty banning nuclear weapons this year. More than 190,000 paper cranes have already been delivered to world leaders, and messages of support have been received from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and amongst others national leaders of Australia, Afghanistan, Greece, Kazakhstan, the Marshall Islands, Mozambique, Slovenia and Switzerland.

“Our focus now is on getting responses from the presidents and prime ministers of other countries. This month around 70,000 paper cranes will be delivered to ambassadors in Tokyo, asking them to pass on the cranes to their leader. We will use the letters to demonstrate the strength and breadth of support globally for a ban on nuclear weapons,” ICAN Australia Director, Tim Wright, told IDN.

Students across the world are participating in the campaign. Earlier this year, students from Gisborne Secondary College in Victoria (Australia) made 1000 paper cranes and delivered them to the parliamentary secretary to Australian prime minister, calling for ban on nuclear weapons.

The school’s Japanese language teacher, Noriko Ikaga, has been taking Years 10 and 11 students to Japan every alternate year. “It has become a tradition to make 1000 paper cranes when we visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. This year, the students also folded another 6000 paper cranes for the kids affected by the Fukushima nuclear disaster,” Ikaga told IDN.

With Australia going to polls on September 7, these students are hoping that future leaders will take Australia’s nuclear obligations seriously. ICAN’s Global Parliamentary Appeal is calling on all national governments to negotiate a treaty banning nuclear weapons and building political will for stringent action to bring global nuclear weapons stockpiles down from about 17,000 to zero.



“In Australia we are virtually ignorant to the risks that we, as a population, are under every day, due to the enormous amounts of nuclear weapons that still exist in the world. Our trip to Hiroshima made us determined to do something about it. We sought to show the Australian Prime Minister how much we cared, and that Disarmament was an issue that could not be ignored,” Holly Dwyer (17), a Year 11 student, told IDN.

Holly’s classmate, Joel Mackinnon (17), was surprised how little most students in her class knew about the nuclear weapons industry. “It genuinely scares me that we hold the fate of the world and humanity in the hands of such governments which appear to be almost willing to go to war. Participating in the Paper Cranes project is a start to saving the world from the unacceptable global threat posed by nuclear weapons,” Mackinnon told IDN.

An ICAN Australia’s *Disarm Your Degree* report, which examined Australian public university investments in nuclear arms makers, confirmed that four universities did invest in nuclear weapons producers and 12 did not. The information available for the remaining 17 universities was insufficient.

“Many university students have shown a strong interest in this campaign, and are working with us to raise awareness. The University of Sydney has indicated that it is in the process of adopting an ethical investment policy. None of the other universities have indicated that they intend to change their investment practices, but we will maintain the pressure,” Wright told IDN.

ICAN is calling on universities to develop ethical investment policies that exclude nuclear weapons companies both from their direct investments and their investments through fund managers. An Australian Government investment fund, The Future Fund, currently invests A\$227 million in nuclear weapons companies. ➔

Photo: ICAN director Tim Wright and Hiroshima students launch thousand paper cranes project | Credit: MAP-Wcommunications



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In-Depth Reports

The Future Fund

A petition with 14,000 signatures was delivered in August 2013 to the Fund's board members and ICAN members visited the Fund's head office in Melbourne on Hiroshima Day (August 6) and Nagasaki Day (August 9), demanding that it divests from nuclear weapons companies.

Wright said, "The Fund has divested from companies involved in the production of other inhumane weapons such as cluster munitions and landmines. They recently excluded tobacco companies from their investments in response to public pressure, so we are optimistic that we can also convince them to exclude nuclear weapons companies."

Earlier, the Fund had disclosed to the Senate (one of the two houses of Australian Parliament) that it invests taxpayers' money in 14 companies involved in the production and maintenance of nuclear weapons or associated technology.

"I think a lot of Australians would be shocked to learn that the Future Fund has more than A\$130 million invested in companies that manufacture nuclear arms. Our members regularly express concern about the investment choices made by those overseeing the Future Fund," said Rohan Wenn, Communications Manager at [GetUp Australia](#), an independent, grassroots community advocacy organisation.

As many as 76 per cent of Australians believe that nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament should be a top foreign policy objective of the Australian Government, according to a 2011 survey conducted by the Lowy Institute for International Policy, an independent think tank.

Australian governments have been strong proponents of nuclear non-proliferation. Australia is a party to all major international conventions relating to nuclear weapons including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), and the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty commonly known as The Treaty of Rarotonga as it was signed by the South Pacific nations on the island of Rarotonga (Cook Islands).

"It's easy to imagine that Australia is not involved in the global nuclear weapons trade, but with the Future Fund's investments in nuclear weapons companies and the Federal Government's intentions to export uranium to India and other nuclear weapons states, it most certainly is," ICAN Australia's Outreach Coordinator, Gem Romuld, told IDN.

The Treaty of Rarotonga prohibits Australia from facilitating the manufacture of nuclear weapons anywhere in the world. According to ICAN, the Future Fund might be contravening Australian legislation that outlaws assistance to anyone involved in the "manufacture, production, acquisition or testing" of nuclear devices inside and outside Australia.

Doctrine of extended nuclear deterrence

While Australia doesn't have any nuclear weapons, it subscribes to the doctrine of extended nuclear deterrence under the United States alliance. The supposed protection afforded by the US nuclear weapons is seen as key to Australia's national security. It also has almost 40 per cent of the world's known uranium reserves and supplies 19 per cent of the world market.

All of Australia's uranium is exported, including to countries who continue to produce nuclear weapons. The Australian Conservation Fund has consistently opposed uranium mining and worked to highlight the threats it poses to the environment, sensitive ecosystems, Indigenous cultures and local communities.

In May this year, ICAN Australia launched a booklet entitled *Disarmament Double-Speak* assessing Australia's record on nuclear weapons, its continuing support for the United States extended nuclear deterrence, its resistance to a global ban on nuclear weapons, the inadequacy of safeguards on uranium exports and investments in nuclear arms companies.

Today, there are at least 20,000 nuclear weapons worldwide, around 3,000 of them on launch-ready alert. The potential power of these would roughly equate to 150,000 Hiroshima bombs. Sixty-eight years on since the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the need to develop a legally binding tool to prohibit and ultimately eliminate nuclear weapons is more than ever before. [IDN-InDepthNews – August 27, 2013] □



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In-Depth Reports

Translations

Chinese Text Version http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=996:ican-australia-shows-the-way-to-abolish-nukes-chinese&catid=14:chinese-hindi-urdu-persian&Itemid=15

ICAN 澳大利亚展示废除核武器的方法

【悉尼 (IDN) = Neena Bhandari】

尽管那些拥有核武器的国家持续累积新的核弹头，建设现代化的弹道导弹、轰炸机和潜艇用以发射这些弹头，废除核武器的运动依然在锲而不舍地进行着。

国际废除核武器运动 (ICAN) 的“纸鹤计划”——作为支持核裁军的象征，正在敦促各国政府开始今年全球禁止核武器条约的谈判。超过190,000只纸鹤已经交付给世界各国领导人，另外我们还收到来自包括联合国秘书长在内的各国领导人的支持废核的信息，其中包括阿富汗、澳大利亚、希腊、哈萨克斯坦、马绍尔群岛、莫桑比克、斯洛文尼亚和瑞士。

“我们目前的重点是设法得到来自其他国家总统和总理的响应。在这个月里，大约70,000只纸鹤将会被交付在东京的驻日大使手中，我们要求他们把这些纸鹤传递给他们的领导人。我们将用这些信件证明我们对全球禁止核武器支持的力度和广度，”ICAN 澳大利亚主任提姆·赖特，对IDN如此说到。

CHINESE PDF

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Chinese_ICAN_Australia_Shows_The_Way_To_Abolish_Nukes.pdf

Japanese Text Version http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=991:ican-australia-shows-the-way-to-abolish-nukes-japanese&catid=2:japanese-korean-bahasa&Itemid=3

ICAN オーストラリアが示す核廃絶への道

【シドニー-IDN=ニーナ・バンダリ】

核兵器保有国が、核弾頭の数を増やし、それを運搬する弾道ミサイルや爆撃機、潜水艦を建造し近代化する中、核兵器廃絶運動は、ますます力をつけている。

核兵器廃絶国際キャンペーン (ICAN) 折り鶴プロジェクト (折り鶴は核軍縮の象徴である) は、世界各国に対して、核兵器を禁止する世界的条約の交渉を今年中に開始することを求めている。これまでに19万羽以上の折り鶴が世界の指導者に送られ、これに対して、国連事務総長や、オーストラリア・アフガニスタン・ギリシャ・カザフスタン・マーシャル諸島・モザンビーク・スロベニア・スイス各国の指導者から支持メッセージが届いている。

「私たちは今、その他の国々の大統領や首相から反応を得ることに力を注いでいます。今月には約7万羽の折り鶴を在東京の各国大使に届け、本国の首脳に送るよう要請する予定です。核兵器禁止に向けた世界的支持の強さと広がり示すために、これらの支持メッセージを使おうと思っています」とICAN オーストラリア担当理事のティム・ライト氏は語った。

Japanese PDF

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Japanese/Japanese_ICAN_Australia_Shows_The_Way_To_Abolish_Nukes.pdf



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By THALIF DEEN

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - The growing political rift between the United States and Russia triggered by the granting of temporary asylum to U.S. whistleblower Edward Snowden, who is now holed up in Moscow, is threatening to further undermine relations between the two superpowers at the United Nations.

With the U.S. decision to call off an upcoming summit meeting between U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin, which was scheduled to take place in Moscow early September, the negative fallout is expected to have an impact on several politically sensitive issues, including the civil war in Syria, Iran's nuclear programme and the proposed reduction in nuclear arms.

Russia, along with China, has already vetoed four Western and U.S. inspired Security Council resolutions aimed at punishing Syria – and the chances of any future U.N. sanctions on Damascus remain remote.

“The strained political relations between the U.S. and Russia will further reduce the Security Council to a non-entity,” warns an Asian diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. At the same time, he pointed out, the on-again, off-again Geneva conference on Syria looks to be another casualty. The growing confrontation between the two superpowers also comes amidst the first-ever high level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament scheduled to take place Sep. 26.

In a speech at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin last June, Obama called for drastic cuts in nuclear weapons, which was expected to be on the agenda of a proposed nuclear summit in 2016.

Tilman A Ruff, co-chair, International Steering Group and Australian board member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, told IPS the disagreement between Russia and the U.S. over Snowden could be used by the US as a pretext to fail to make progress on disarmament.

“That is why the 184 U.N. member states that don't have nuclear weapons should stop being held hostage by the nine nuclear armed states,” he said. They should take the lead and begin negotiating a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, paving the way for their eradication, said Ruff, who is also an associate professor at the Nossal Institute for Global Health at the University of Melbourne.

Besides the five permanent members (P5) of the Security Council, namely the United States, Britain, France, China

and Russia, the other four undeclared nuclear weapons states include India, Pakistan, Israel, and possibly North Korea.

Dr. Rebecca Johnson, executive director of the Acronym Institute for Disarmament and Diplomacy, told IPS the United States and Russia have far too many mutual interests at stake for Russia's granting of temporary asylum to Edward Snowden to derail them.

“This won't be a return to the Cold War,” she said, sounding less pessimistic. She pointed out that Putin imprisoned Russian nuclear analyst Igor Sutyagin for over 11 years, and is as keen as the United States to prevent exposure of security and intelligence practices and mistakes.

“So even as the U.S. and Russia engage in a public spat over Snowden, their overriding bilateral interests will be in maintaining some kind of arms reduction relationship,” she said.

As more and more governments raise concerns about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, said Dr Johnson, Russia and the U.S. will probably want to put on a strong show of P5 solidarity at the High Level Meeting at the U.N., in the hope of heading off the growing calls to ban nuclear weapons globally.

Ruff told IPS that nuclear weapons pose a mortal danger like no other to everyone, wherever they live.

With 16,200 (94 percent) of the world's 17,270 nuclear weapons between them, Russia and the U.S. bear a heavy responsibility to remove this existential threat.

“Yet both are developing new nuclear weapons and spending between them more than 75 billion dollars per year to modernise their nuclear arsenals, with every indication that they plan to retain them indefinitely,” Ruff noted.

Eradicating nuclear weapons is the most urgent global priority, and must not be derailed because of other issues, said Ruff, who is also the international medical advisor for the Australian Red Cross. [IPS | August 7, 2013] □



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In-Depth Reports

Translations

Italian <http://www.ipsnotizie.it/nota.php?idnews=1930>

La frattura tra Russia e Stati Uniti potrebbe minare i negoziati sul nucleare

Thalif Deen

NAZIONI UNITE, Ago, 2013 (IPS) - La crescente tensione tra Stati Uniti e Russia innescata dalla concessione dell'asilo politico a Edward Snowden, l'informatore americano ora rifugiato a Mosca, rischia di compromettere ulteriormente le relazioni tra le due superpotenze delle Nazioni Unite. - See more at:

<http://www.ipsnotizie.it/nota.php?idnews=1930#sthash.JfhQsIXj.dpuf>

Japanese Text Version http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=982:us-russia-rift-could-impact-upcoming-uke-talks-japanese&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

米ロ対立で今後の核問題協議に悪影響か

【国連IPS＝タリフ・ディーン】

ロシア政府が米国人内部告発者で現在はモスクワに滞在しているエドワード・スノーデン氏に一時的亡命を認めたことを引き金に、米ロ間の政治的対立が激化しており、国連を舞台とした両超大国間の関係にも悪影響が出かねない情勢となっている。

米 国政府は 8 月 7 日、翌月初めにモスクワで開催することが予定されていたバラク・オバマ大統領とウラジミール・プーチン大統領による米ロ首脳会談を延期する 決定を下した。しかし、スノーデン問題の余波はこれにとどまらず、両国間の対立は今後、シリアの内戦やイランの核問題、核兵器削減提案などの政治的に微妙 な問題にも悪影響を及ぼすとみられている。

ロシア政府は、シリア制裁を目的に欧米諸国主導で出された国連安保理決議案に対して、中国政府とともにすでに 4 回も拒否権を行使している。その結果、シリアに対する国連制裁が今後なされる可能性はきわめて低くなっている。

Japanese PDF http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Japanese/Japanese_U.S.-Russia_Rift_Could_Impact_Upcoming_Nuke_Talks.pdf

Portuguese

<http://ips.org/ipsbrasil.net/nota.php?idnews=9741>

Preocupa que tensão entre Rússia e Estados Unidos afete negociação nuclear

Thalif Deen

Nações Unidas, 12/8/2013, (IPS) - O asilo temporário outorgado pela Rússia a Edward Snowden, o ex-contratado de inteligência que revelou segredos dos Estados Unidos, coloca em risco as relações entre dois dos cinco membros permanentes do Conselho de Segurança da Organização das Nações Unidas (ONU), com consequências negativas em conversações mundiais cruciais.

Entre elas, menciona-se especialmente o impacto sobre assuntos sensíveis como a guerra civil na Síria, o programa nuclear do Irã e a célebre redução dos arsenais atômicos. Na verdade, o presidente dos Estados Unidos, Barack Obama, decidiu, no dia 6, adiar a reunião prevista para o começo de setembro em Moscou com seu colega russo, Vladimir Putin. A Rússia, além da China, já vetaram quatro resoluções do Conselho de Segurança da ONU, propostas pelos Estados Unidos e por outros países ocidentais, contra o regime sírio de Bashar al Assad. Assim, as possibilidades de impor mais sanções contra Damasco agora parecem mais remotas do que antes.

Spanish <http://www.ipsnoticias.net/2013/08/preocupa-que-tension-entre-rusia-y-eeuu-afecte-negociacion-nuclear/>



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NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH AUGUST 2013 ARTICLES

What Others Say

Iran and P5+1 Talk About New Nuclear Talks

By JAYA RAMACHANDRAN

BERLIN (IDN) - Preparations are afoot for a new, and perhaps a promising, round of talks between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany (P5+1) over Tehran's nuclear energy program. According to Press TV, Kazakhstan is willing to host the negotiations for the third time in succession this year.

Undeterred by continued impasse at the talks in Almaty on April 6-7 and earlier on February 26-27, Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Erlan Idrissov made the announcement during a phone conversation with new Director of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi on August 18.



A bilateral meeting between the German and Iranian foreign ministers is planned on the fringes of the United Nations General Assembly in September in New York.

Germany's membership of P5+1 grouping is underlined by the fact that Iran is a key trading partner of the country. Tehran's nuclear

Congratulating Salehi on his appointment as the AEOI chief as well as a vice president, the Kazakh foreign minister expressed the hope that the stalled nuclear negotiations between Iran and the P5+1 group will have "a fortunate ending", reported the Press TV, the first Iranian international news network, broadcasting in English round-the-clock.

Iran and the P5+1, which comprises five permanent members of the United Nations (UN) Security Council Russia, China, France, Britain, and the U.S. plus Germany, have held several rounds of talks with the main focus being on Iran's nuclear energy program.

The announcement by the Kazakh foreign minister, reported by Press TV on August 21, comes at a point in time when Iran and the P5+1 have yet to decide on a next round of negotiations, but in the aftermath of a new government having been installed in Tehran, both sides have expressed their willingness to talk afresh.

In a telephone conversation on August 18, EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, who represents the P5+1, and Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif expressed readiness for resuming negotiations.

Earlier, on August 16, the German Foreign Office spokesperson said at a press conference in Berlin that Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle had in a telephone conversation with Iran's Foreign Minister Zarif expressed the hope that "the new Government in Iran would provide fresh impetus for the launch of constructive and substantial negotiations aimed at resolving the dispute over Iran's nuclear program".

programs mainly depend upon the German products and services. Around 50 German firms have their own branch offices in Iran and more than 12,000 firms have their own trade representatives in Iran. Several renowned German companies are involved in major Iranian infrastructure projects, especially in the petrochemical sector, like Linde, BASF, Lurgi, Krupp, Siemens, ZF Friedrichshafen, Mercedes, Volkswagen and MAN.

Iran's Foreign Minister Zarif reaffirmed Tehran's intention to resume talks with the P5+1 with a view to finding "a solution to the Islamic Republic's nuclear issue," Iran Review, a "leading independent, non-governmental and non-partisan website" reported on August 21.

It said: "Ms. Catherine Ashton contacted me and expressed her desire for the resumption of talks between Iran and the P5+1. In response..., I reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to resume talks," Zarif said. "In the phone conversation, I told Ms. Ashton that we favor a solution instead of merely engaging in talks," Zarif added.

Ashton's spokesperson said that the EU foreign policy chief had "underlined her continued determination and commitment to seek a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue," during her conversation with Zarif.

Hindsight

According to the Iran Review, "Iran's Foreign Ministry also said the newly-released documents on U.S. involvement in a 1953 coup against a popular Iranian government reveal no previously-unknown information and do nothing to fade Washington's crimes." ☺

Picture: Iran and the P5+1 hold talks in Almaty, Kazakhstan, April 5, 2013 | Credit: Press TV



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH AUGUST 2013 ARTICLES

What Others Say

Abbas Araqchi of Iran's Foreign Ministry said that the release of the recent documents 60 years after the coup "neither adds anything new to what we already knew, nor does it lessen the American crimes."

The Iranian official noted that the declassified documents do not belong to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) - contrary to what has been claimed - and that Iran expects the agency to release its actual documents on the issue.

"Araqchi also underlined the British role in the 1953 coup and noted that although the coup of August 19, 1953 is generally viewed as an American ploy, we should not lose sight of Britain's behind-the-scene role in planning the coup and the subsequent violence and hostility it perpetrated against Iran prior to and in the course of the coup," Iran Review said.

Commenting on the future of Iran's comprehensive talks with the P5+1 group of countries and whether the talks will be handled by Iran's Foreign Ministry or Supreme Council of National Security, Araqchi said that, regardless of which body would pursue the negotiations, Iran's principles on its nuclear energy issue will remain unchanged.

He further noted that newly elected President Hassan Rouhani has not yet decided which of the aforementioned bodies will undertake the task of the negotiations with the P5+1.

"Regarding the reports about the 'reduction of Iranian nuclear reserves' in the run-up to the next round of talks between Iran and the P5+1, Araqchi stated that the rate

of Iranian nuclear production and reserves will be based on our needs and consumption in the field of energy and other fields such as agriculture and medicine and is not a political issue," Iran Review said.

Araqchi said Iran's Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) in southern Iran will most likely be ready for full function and be inaugurated "within the next several weeks".

He reiterated, however, that the plant has long been producing electricity while undergoing experimental stages, which is a common practice that takes place at nuclear power plants from the time when their construction is completed by the contractor to when their handling is entirely relayed to the possessor country.

The Foreign Ministry official described the Bushehr NPP as a case jointly handled by Iran's Atomic Energy Agency and the Foreign Ministry, adding that it has been one of the nation's key foreign policy issues in the past 20 years.

Press TV said: "The U.S., Israel and some of their allies falsely claim that Iran is pursuing non-civilian objectives in its nuclear energy program, with Washington and the European Union using the unfounded allegation as a pretext to impose illegal sanctions on Iran."

It added: "Tehran strongly rejects the groundless claim over its nuclear activities, maintaining that as a committed signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), it has the right to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes."

[IDN-InDepthNews – August 22, 2013] □



Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant | Model of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant
Credit: Wikimedia Commons



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NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH AUGUST 2013 ARTICLES

What Others Say

India Can Be Nuclear Suppliers' Credible Partner

By RAJIV NAYAN*

NEW DELHI (IDSA) - Some of the Nuclear Suppliers Group members are expressing unnecessary apprehensions regarding India's membership. Unlike China, India has a track record of complying with obligations of any treaty or agreement it signs.

The 2013 Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) plenary meeting in Prague, from June 13 to 14, assumed significance in the context of the on-going crises relating to Iran and North Korea as well the legitimacy crisis faced by the group because of the Chinese proliferation behaviour. Equally important challenges before the NSG have been the advancement in global nuclear technology as well as the expansion of its membership whereby its goals and objectives are promoted not compromised.



membership. Recently, Japan supported the candidature of India for all the four multilateral export controls regimes during the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Japan.

On his visit to India in February 2013, the British Prime Minister promised to work with India for the membership and to that effect a paper was apparently circulated in an informal meeting of the NSG on March 18 to answer some of the misgivings expressed. The British paper recognized that since India and the NSG non-proliferation goals and principles are the same, the member countries should facilitate India's membership as early as possible.

The customary press release soon after the end of the plenary meeting underlined the resolve of the member countries to fight proliferation and expressed concern about "the proliferation implications" of the North Korean and Iran nuclear programmes. Surprisingly, the press release did not express concern about proliferation and defiance of its member - China, which is blatantly undertaking nuclear business with Pakistan. The release also informed about the revision of NSG control lists to adjust to the advancement in global nuclear technology. Soon, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will publish the list.

Enduring challenge

The limited and faulty membership of the group that has been an enduring challenge of the NSG remained un-addressed. On the one hand, a NSG member country like China is seen blatantly violating NSG norms, rules and guidelines and on the other, there are members who decide about the control of nuclear commerce without being producers of nuclear items. The expansion of the NSG membership is either becoming tokenism or contradictory to its objective.

The membership of India was discussed but superficially. India has been knocking at the doors of the four multilateral export controls regimes for more than two years. Its membership to all the four regimes has got the support of several leading members such as the US and the UK. According to media reports, the UK circulated a paper in favour of India's membership while earlier, the US and France also circulated their papers in support of India's

The NSG has membership criteria. These are:

- "The ability to supply items (including items in transit) covered by the Annexes to Parts 1 and 2 of the NSG Guidelines
- Adherence to the Guidelines and action in accordance with them
- Enforcement of a legally based domestic export control system which gives effect to the commitment to act in accordance with the Guidelines
- Adherence to one or more of the NPT, the Treaties of Pelindaba, Rarotonga, Tlatelolco, Bangkok, Semipalatinsk or an equivalent international nuclear non-proliferation agreement, and full compliance with the obligations of such agreement(s)
- Support of international efforts towards non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and of their delivery vehicles."

Wrongly, in India, many point out that these criteria were "finalized by the NSG members during their 2001 Aspen Plenary". In fact, these criteria have existed for a long time and the public documents available in 1990s record all these criteria. The important issue is that India meets all the criteria but for the adherence of the NPT. ☺



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH AUGUST 2013 ARTICLES

What Others Say

In reality, India, on several occasions, has been asserting that despite being a non-member country its policies are "consistent with the key provisions of NPT that apply to nuclear weapon states. These provisions are contained in Articles I, III and VI." The major powers realized this, but the NSG avoided taking a decision on India's membership in its plenary session.

Some of the members are expressing unnecessary apprehensions regarding India's membership. Unlike China, India has a track record of complying with obligations of any treaty or agreement it signs.

The 2008 India-specific waiver, which permitted full scope nuclear cooperation with India, underlined the need for adjusting the arrangement to achieve a larger goal of bringing India closer to NSG objective of promoting nuclear trade without compromising on non-proliferation. As for India's membership, the member countries may relax the NPT criteria to bring India in the NSG control framework. India can certainly bring a balance in the composition and activities of the NSG.

A valuable partner

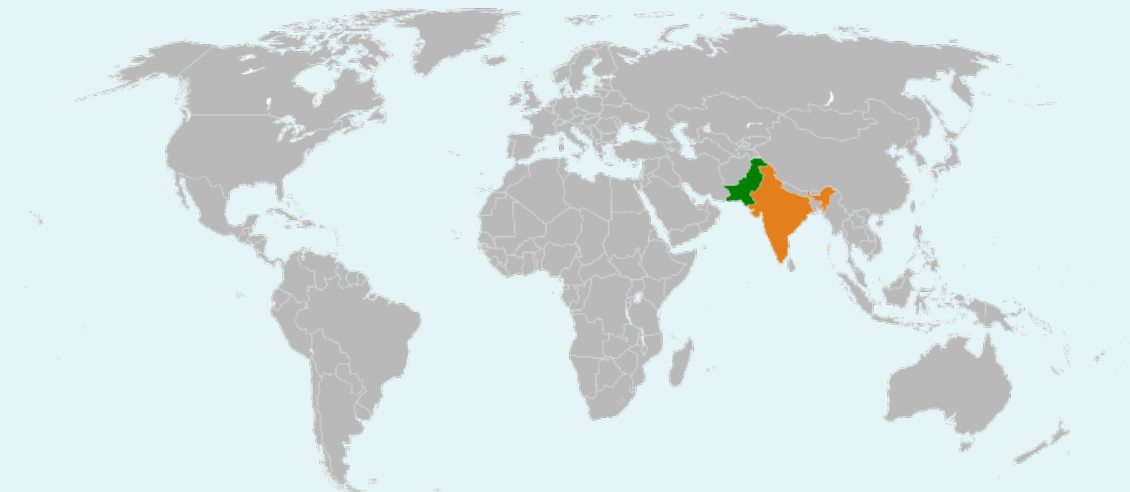
The NSG will get a valuable partner in India. Fortunately, some in the US and France have started arguing strongly in favour of Indian membership. The supportive countries may have to work with its sceptic partners. The Indian government should also encourage credible Indian think tanks working on the area to connect with research institutions of both opposing and supporting countries, and explain through the interactions the benefits of India joining the NSG.

The campaign launched by some pro-proliferation state and non-state actors that the Indian membership will make it difficult to ignore other candidates like Pakistan is malicious and certainly bereft of logic and reason. After all, the NSG gave memberships to Mexico and Serbia in the concluded plenary meeting. In 2008, the NSG understood the significance of granting the waiver to India. The dominant view then was that India had an impeccable non-proliferation record and Pakistan's record was terrible. No one was convinced about giving any concession to Pakistan. Similarly, in the past, China was not given membership of the Missile Technology Control Regime because of its proliferation behaviour. The same reason can be extended to its proliferation partner Pakistan.

The NSG countries need to ponder over the membership issue of India. As an informal body, it may meet informally and in committees and occasions other than the plenary. A small group of countries should not be allowed to sabotage crucial decisions. Of course the principle of consensus is sound, but building consensus on sound logic rather than propaganda and false campaign is far more important. If some countries continue to enforce action or inaction in the NSG on wrong grounds, we may have a doomed future for the NSG. The sooner the correction the better it is.

*Rajiv Nayan is Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi. This viewpoint first appeared on IDSA website on July 29, 2013. Views expressed are of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the IDSA or of the Government of India. [August 16, 2013] □

Source: http://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/IndiacanbeacrediblepartneroftheNSG_rnayan_290713





BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH AUGUST 2013 ARTICLES

Civil Society Perspective

Banning the Bomb Blast

By JOSEPH CIRINCIONE*

Eisenhower wanted it; Kennedy almost got it; Clinton negotiated it; and now Obama can deliver it. It is the longest-sought, hardest-fought for goal in the history of nuclear arms control: a global ban on nuclear weapons tests.

Fifty years ago, on August 5, 1963, the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom signed the Limited Test Ban Treaty, banning tests in the atmosphere, underwater and in outer space. This landmark treaty is the main reason that no nation tests above ground to this day. It took a while, but it became the global norm, whether a state had signed the treaty or not. Even India and Pakistan's tests in 1998 and North Korea's more recent tests were conducted underground, limiting their environmental damage.



South Asian tests with its own. A global ban would be an important restraint on this deadly spiral.

A ban preserves the US advantage. With 1032 tests, the United States has conducted more tests than the rest of the world combined. We don't need to do any more. We have a strong interest in preventing any other state from developing more deadly – and potentially more usable -- nuclear weapons. A test ban could build confidence that the US and Russia could more quickly reduce

their massive arsenals with less fear that others would race to build up.

But Kennedy had wanted more. A strong national security Democrat, he supported the strong national security Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower when he pursued a complete ban on all tests in the 1950s. Still, Kennedy said that the limited ban was "safer by far for the United States than an unlimited arms race." The Senate approved the treaty quickly on September 23 by an 80-19 margin; Kennedy signed it on October 7, 1963. He hoped it would only be a few years before he could secure the full ban. It was not to be.

But to get Senate ratification, President Obama will have to do more. As Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D.-NH) said on April 11 of this year: "There's a lot of work to be done before taking up CTBT. But that just means we should start now to chart a path forward for its eventual consideration."

Thirty-three years later, the United Nations finally adopted the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty negotiated under the leadership of Bill Clinton. But in a fit of partisan politics, the Senate failed to approve the treaty by a vote of 51-48.

Ploughshares Fund supports the efforts of a coalition of non-governmental groups and experts to build political support for this key national security measure and to create the political will in the current administration to launch a multi-year effort to win Senate approval. A good source of information on these efforts is the Project for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, run by the Arms Control Association.

President Obama promised in his June speech in Berlin to pursue its ratification. Indeed the case is stronger than ever. All of the technical concerns that led some senators to oppose the treaty in 1999 have been resolved. There is widespread scientific agreement that a global ban can be effectively verified, cheaters can be caught, and that the US does not need any more explosive tests to keep its nuclear weapons safe, secure and effective.

On September 6, I will travel to New York City to meet the new executive director of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization, Lassina Zerbo, and join him in a series of meetings with key diplomats supporting the treaty, organized by the Global Security Institute. It was a pleasure visiting the CTBTO headquarters in Vienna last July and an honor to have the organization post a video of my interview and the speech I delivered at that time.

A global ban has two key national security benefits:

It will curtail a dangerous nuclear arms race in South Asia. India and Pakistan are both building more nuclear weapons. Testing would allow them to build weapons with larger yields and smaller size. China might follow

There is no easy path to ending the testing of nuclear weapons everywhere for all time. But this is a goal worth fighting for. We have no guarantee of success but we know that if we do not try, we will never win. [Source: Ploughshares Fund] □

**Joseph Cirincione is President of Ploughshares Fund,*



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH AUGUST 2013 ARTICLES

Civil Society Perspective

New Nuclear Weapons For The UK: A Challenge Labour Can't Dodge

By REBECCA JOHNSON

*Executive Director of the Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy and
Co-Chair of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).*

This article was carried by Open Democracy on August 23, 2013.

Labour could turn opposition to the billion pound Trident replacement into an electoral asset, but instead appears to be sleepwalking to oblivion. Rebecca Johnson makes the case for challenging Trident replacement, and says it's time to mobilise civil society

The 2015 general election may be this country's last chance to avoid wasting billions of pounds on new nuclear weapons that one of Labour's greatest Foreign Secretaries, Robin Cook, condemned as "worse than irrelevant" for addressing 21st century security challenges. Following the sham Trident Alternatives Review, it is clear that we need to mobilise civil society pressure to scrap Trident and elect a new government that is willing and able to participate in multilateral disarmament negotiations to rid the world of the scourge of nuclear weapons for all time.

The rational case was won a long time ago, even with many Conservatives. Across most of the world, nuclear weapons are recognised to be clumsy, outdated weapons that carry residual risks but cannot be used for dealing with the real world security challenges we might face in the 21st century and beyond. Replacing the current submarines with another Trident system is a foolish project driven by the economic interests of a handful of British and American defence contractors well versed in manipulating political fears, vanity, and inertia among our politicians and civil servants. Tony Blair's memoirs reveal that despite recognising that there was no military or security case for replacing Trident, he felt it would be easier to carry on nuclear business as usual than to initiate the political arguments at home and be accused of "downgrading our status". Now this shortsighted procurement is being taken forward by David Cameron. Nick Clegg – having been outmanoeuvred by Cameron over the Review – is bent on overcoming Liberal Democrat scepticism and getting his Party to back Trident replacement. Labour could turn opposition to Trident replacement into an electoral asset, but instead appears to be sleepwalking to oblivion.

Ed Miliband seems to be a thoughtful, intelligent man. But he also needs to be canny as a politician and robustly unafraid of the challenges and decisions of leadership. I'd be willing to bet that he understands that there is no military or security case for Trident and that Britain would be a more highly regarded international player if

we stopped clinging to weapons of mass destruction that we don't need and can't afford. He can no doubt recognise that redirecting resources from Trident replacement to the armed forces, or – better still – health, education and sustainable energy projects would be electorally popular and create more jobs than BAE Systems is likely to employ at Barrow. Since they are behind on producing Astute submarines, Barrow jobs are already secured for the next decade and more, giving plenty of time to reskill, retool and develop alternatives for the workforce if a forward-looking programme for managing the transition were put in place.

Scrapping Trident altogether would be very popular with most Labour (as well as Liberal Democrat and Green) supporters and enable Britain to play a more useful role in international disarmament and non-proliferation initiatives. If the focus groups aren't yet ready for that, however, a compelling case can at the very least be put forward for the 2015 general election which commits to putting the costs and plans for replacing Trident on hold until we can at least see where international efforts to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons are heading.

The prudent (but winning) case for challenging the billion-pound rush for Trident replacement could run something like this: The nature of security and deterrence have changed since the end of the Cold war, and nuclear weapons are neither necessary nor useful for these purposes. Trident replacement would be costly, and come at the expense of other important defence commitments, as pointed out by senior military officials in the UK and among our NATO allies. As long as some states continue to value, possess and pursue nuclear weapons they could remain a security problem, so we might want to hedge our bets for a while; however, it is clear that we would be more successful in preventing future nuclear threats if we join other nations to stigmatise, reduce, prohibit and eliminate all existing arsenals. In accordance with our obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) the UK has committed to "achieving and maintaining a world without nuclear weapons" through unilateral as well as multilateral and bilateral steps. ☺



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH AUGUST 2013 ARTICLES

Civil Society Perspective

Because of these obligations, and in view of the fact that a large number of governments, including some of our NATO allies, have begun working towards a treaty to ban nuclear weapons, the UK government should put plans to replace Trident on hold and join multilateral negotiations to get a nuclear ban treaty and eliminate these inhumane weapons for everyone. We can retain the option to replace Trident if negotiations fail, but should delay the irrevocable spending decisions while we make every effort to promote a stronger international regime to prevent nuclear production, use and accidents.

That's the basic case to make for the 2015 election. If necessary, it can also be pointed out that by varying Trident patrols now, it would be possible to prolong the life of the existing submarine fleet while the UK puts political resources into multilateral negotiations to ban nuclear weapons. The Coalition government has set 2016 as the deadline for the MoD's "main gate" decision point, when high cost construction contracts are due to be signed with BAE Systems to start building the submarines. This timetable is dictated by current assumptions on Trident's current service life and production schedules for replacing it with a similar system. Those assumptions are questionable.

Even Trident advocates (or most of them) are willing to accept that our security does not require having a nuclear sub at sea at all times on the "continuous-at-sea deterrence" (CASD) patrols that were considered necessary during the Cold War. So changing that small element of UK doctrine and operations would be a practical step that could be taken immediately, with a positive effect on our pockets, decision points, and international standing.

Beware, however, of making this interim change into the main objective. Since CASD has not been necessary for decades, suspending this requirement should be undertaken immediately to save money and relieve pressure on the navy and the submarine refurbishment schedules. It should not be treated as a way to make the replacement of the Trident system for the next 50 years appear cheaper and more palatable.

In light of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, presenting Britain's nuclear options to 2060 as a debate over CASD and a toss up between 2, 3 or 4 subs is like obsessing over how many deckchairs Titanic needs while ignoring iceberg warnings, the need to change course and the disastrous lack of lifeboats if we don't change course in time. The Trident Alternatives Review (TAR) has already indicated that the no CASD Trident Lite option could be a fallback if the Conservatives can't get a full like for like Trident replacement through. That is to be expected. More worryingly, it also looks likely to feature high in the forthcoming report of the BASIC Trident

Commission. Initiated over 2 years ago by the British American Security Information Council this Commission is chaired by Lord Des Browne, Convenor of the Top Level Group and the former Defence Secretary who fronted Tony Blair's push for Trident replacement in 2007, Sir Malcolm Rifkind, Chair of the Intelligence and Security Committee and former Conservative Defence and Foreign Secretary, and Sir Menzies Campbell, former Liberal Democrat leader and Foreign Affairs spokesperson. Astonishingly for this day and age, the Commissioners were almost entirely chosen from the UK's white male establishment. Several have been prominently involved in pursuing and defending nuclear weapons procurements in the past and still have institutional positions in party politics. Only one is a woman, Professor Alyson Bailes, former ambassador and head of the FCO's Security Policy Department

If current indications are correct, the BASIC Commission is in danger of underestimating international developments and putting forward out-dated lowest-common-denominator recommendations. However one might dress up Trident Lite with abandoning CASD and expressions of support for the NPT, nuclear security and multilateral arms reductions, this still amounts to advocating Trident replacement when the world is moving in the opposite direction. Even a nod in the direction of Global Zero (which most if not all the Commission members along with David Cameron have signed) would fail to impress, as high minded rhetoric means nothing without concrete actions and policy changes to achieve such a goal.

It would be sad if BASIC's laudable initiative has set its sights too low and ends up failing to make use of current opportunities to promote a fundamental rethink. Having been senior advisor to the International WMD Commission chaired by Dr Hans Blix (2004-07) I am well aware how difficult it is to steer such Commissions away from the traps and icebergs of their members' established political outlooks and preferences. But it is probably not too late to reframe the options and help British policymakers adapt to the 21st century, where international humanitarian law is increasingly applied to military and disarmament choices. If not, it will turn out to be as unfit for purpose as the TAR, with the added danger of undermining civil society efforts to change the games that nuclear-armed states play.

In any case, Ed Miliband should not wait for this Commission (or anyone else) to do the thinking for him, as some reports have suggested. As a matter of urgency, Labour needs to conduct an in depth, forward-looking policy review to assess all the options for UK nuclear policy in light of current and future developments in security, defence, non-proliferation and disarmament. □



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH AUGUST 2013 ARTICLES

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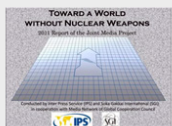
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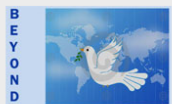
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By PETER JENKINS*



Gulf, and global peace. [P]

LONDON (IPS) - A *Dangerous Delusion* is the work of one of Britain's most brilliant political commentators, Peter Osborne, and an Irish physicist, David Morrison, who has written powerfully about the misleading of British public and parliamentary opinion in the run-up to the 2003 Iraq War.

This [book](#) will infuriate neoconservatives, Likudniks and members of the Saudi royal family but enlighten all who struggle with what to think about the claim that Iran's nuclear programme threatens the survival of Israel, the security of Arab states in the Persian

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U.N. Chief Eyes Eight Holdouts in Nuke Test Ban Treaty

Nuclear Abolition News | IPS

By THALIF DEEN

UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - A group of about 20 "eminent persons" is to be tasked with an unenviable job: convince eight recalcitrant countries to join the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).



The eight holdouts - China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and the United States - have not given any indication of possible ratifications, leaving the treaty in limbo. [P] [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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Disarmament Deal Takes Two Steps Back

Nuclear Abolition News | IPS

By PAVOL STRACANSKY



MOSCOW (IPS) - A Kremlin compromise on nuclear disarmament looks as far away as ever as Russian president Vladimir Putin and his U.S. counterpart Barack Obama use their countries' strained relations to bolster their own domestic political agendas, experts say.

Obama's call, during a speech in Berlin in June 2013, for a dramatic reduction in the world's nuclear weapons had led to hopes that there would be cuts in world nuclear arsenals on the agenda of a potential nuclear summit in 2016, and gave extra

impetus to what will be the first-ever high level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on nuclear disarmament in September 2013. [P] [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#)

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Nuclear Test Moratorium Threatened by North Korean Impunity

Nuclear Abolition News | IPS

By THALIF DEEN



UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - When the United Nations commemorates the International Day Against Nuclear Tests later this week, the lingering question in the minds of most anti-nuclear activists is whether or not the existing moratorium on testing will continue to be honoured - or occasionally violated with impunity.

John Loretz, programme director at [International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War](#) told IPS that since the 1990s the moratorium has been honoured by most states with nuclear weapons. [P] [JAPANESE TEXT VERSION PDF](#) | [SWEDISH](#)

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- [April 2013](#)

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- [March 2013](#)
- [February 2013](#)
- [January 2013](#)
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- [November 2012](#)
- [October 2012](#)
- [September 2012](#)
- [August 2012](#)
- [July 2012](#)
- [June 2012](#)
- [May 2012](#)
- [April 2012](#)

April 2011-March 2012

- [March 2012](#)
- [February 2012](#)
- [January 2012](#)
- [December 2011](#)
- [November 2011](#)
- [October 2011](#)
- [September 2011](#)
- [August 2011](#)
- [July 2011](#)
- [June 2011](#)
- [May 2011](#)
- [April 2011](#)

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