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# Between the Lines

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Nuremberg Actions, PO Box 13 Boulder Creek CA 95006

June/July 1995 #48

## AND YOU THOUGHT IT WAS OVER?

NUCLEAR "STEWARDSHIP"... WHAT DO YOU WANT?  
SCOPING MEETING THURS, JUNE 29: 11 AM & 6 PM

Despite the end of the Cold War, the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) completed by the Clinton Administration in September 1994 confirms the US commitment to nuclear weapons for the long term. It rejects adoption of a "no first use" pledge and projects no arms cuts below START II levels. (If START II is ratified and fully implemented, in 2003 the US arsenal will still hold 3,500 long-range "strategic" nuclear weapons, an undisclosed number of short-range "tactical" weapons, and thousands of nuclear warheads in "reserve".)

The NPR explicitly requires the DOE to "demonstrate capability to refabricate and certify weapons types in [the] enduring stockpile", and to "maintain capability to design, fabricate, and certify new warheads."

To accomplish this without underground testing, (assuming a CTB is concluded) DOE intends to advance nuclear weapons science through computer simulations coupled with archived data from past tests and new diagnostic information obtained from above-ground and laboratory experiments. Nuclear testing is currently being conducted at the Livermore, Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories, through technologically sophisticated techniques generically called "Above-Ground Experiments" (AGEX) and computer modeling.

The Labs are also urging resumption of very low-yield "hydronuclear" tests at the Nevada Test Site. Plans are well under way for a new generation of AGEX facilities including the multi-billion dollar National Ignition Facility at Livermore, the \$124 million Dual-Axis Radiographic Hydrotest facility at Los Alamos, and the \$240 million Jupiter radiation effects simulator at Sandia.

## STOCKPILE STEWARDSHIP-WHAT IS IT?

- The DOE has established a so-called "Stockpile Stewardship" program to ensure the "safety and reliability" of the weapons in the existing stockpile, to preserve the ability to design and certify new nuclear weapons for the future, and to maintain readiness to resume underground testing.
- A related "Stockpile Management" program is intended

to guarantee the ability to manufacture replacement warheads. Proposals for these programs include a retooled nuclear weapons production system, centered at the Labs and the Pantex plant in Texas, capable of turning out approximately 150 weapons per year, and more if needed on an "emergency" basis.

However, a recent study by Sandia Lab found no pressing "safety" or "reliability" problems associated with the aging of nuclear weapons. Before the DOE's "Stockpile Stewardship and Management" programs are allowed to proceed, US nuclear policies and needs must be publicly debated and justified. The DOE has announced that it will prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on "Stockpile Stewardship and Management". This public process should be completed before any new facilities are funded and built.

"Stockpile Stewardship and Management" should be redefined as "passive caretaking of the existing arsenal under safe conditions, while it awaits dismantlement", pursuant to the US obligation under Article VI of the Non Proliferation Treaty to pursue disarmament.

Continued nuclear weapons research, development, testing and production cannot be justified. These programs are a budgetary black hole; they endanger public health and the environment and drain resources badly needed for more constructive purposes. By providing a means for nuclear weapons designers to continue their deadly pursuits, they subvert the primary purpose of a CTB-- to cut off nuclear weapons development-- and undermine the proclaimed US goal of non-proliferation by sending a hypocritical message to other countries: "Do as we say, not as we do".

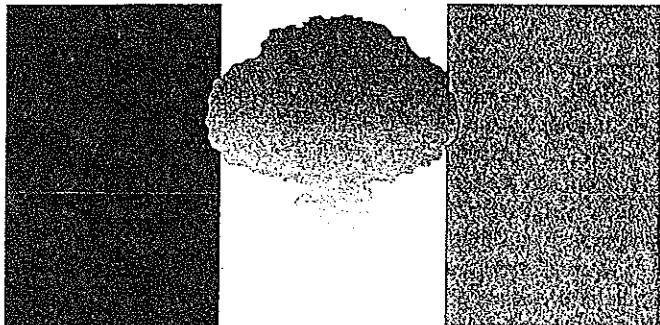
Please, attend one or both of the sessions of the scoping hearing. This is the closest thing to an open discussion on US nuclear policy with the DOE we are likely to be able to participate in for some time to come. Take advantage of this vital opportunity to tell the government exactly what you want regarding nuclear weapons.

Sessions on Thurs. June 29 begin at 11 am and 6 pm, at Villa Tassahara, 6363 Tassahara Rd., Pleasanton.

From I-580 take Santa Rita Rd./Tassahara Rd. exit, go north approximately 1 mile.

For more information, Call Western States Legal Foundation:  
510-839-5877 or Tri-Valley CARES: 510-443-7148. #

# STOP NUCLEAR TESTING



ARRET DES ESSAIS NUCLEAIRES

## FRANCE TO TEST-WHO'S NEXT?

One day before flying to Washington to meet US President Clinton, and two days before the annual G-7 summit of the world's richest countries, France's new conservative President Jaques Chirac confirmed the fears of people world-wide by announcing the resumption of France's nuclear testing program. Testing was suspended in early 1992 by Francois Mitterand, who's courageous move at the time opened the door to a testing moratorium that has been honored by all nations except China ever since.

In his first news conference since taking office on May 17, Chirac stated that France's series of nuclear experiments "was halted a little too early." France will resume testing in the South Pacific in September with eight more explosions at the Mururoa and Fangatuafa atolls in Polynesia. Testing after that will be conducted by computer simulation, says Chirac, who promises to sign the CTB treaty in 1996 as stipulated at the closure of the NPT conference in New York on May 12, last month.

The Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior II had already left a New Zealand port for the French testing zone in Polynesia, in anticipation of Chirac's announcement. Although dearly loved by the Polynesians dying of breast cancer and other diseases easily associated with radiation, this ship is no better loved by French officials than its predecessor. Ten years ago the first Rainbow Warrior was sunk by French intelligence agents in New Zealand, killing one person on board.

Like all nuclear nations, France continues the policy of nuclear colonialism it began in the Algerian Sahara in 1960, detonating its nuclear bombs on the darker-skinned indigenous peoples of distant nations.

Write a letter to President Jacques Chirac, telling him that further French testing will further irreparable environmental damage, racist policies of nuclear colonialism, and jeopardize world security at a crucial time in backing away from the brink of nuclear annihilation.

President Jacques Chirac  
The Elysee  
55 Rue du Fauborg Saint-Honore  
75008 Paris France ☪

## ELFS & MOTHERS

Barb Katt

The campaign to stop Project ELF suffered a strange defeat in April. A joint conference of the US House and Senate Appropriations Committee decided to fund the ELF system even though the Senate had earlier eliminated the funding.

Project ELF transmitters (a second operates in Michigan) are a relic of the Cold War which give un-rescindable first strike capabilities to US nuclear submarines-- they send one way commands to submerged nuclear armed subs around the world. The crews of these vessels cannot respond or ask questions.

The conference committee action came after Rep. Bill Young (R-FL) claimed to have gotten "classified emergency" reasons to continue the ELF program. In fact, Rep. Young had a secret Pentagon briefing about an extremely high frequency system, or EHF, an entirely different system. Later, US Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) told nationally syndicated columnist Jack Anderson that, "The Navy explicitly told me there was no 'classified' reason for maintaining ELF." Two of Jack Anderson's recent columns have brought national attention to the ELF controversy, and to what Anderson called "a comedy of errors that sent \$14 million down the federal drain."

The conference committee's blunder was a perfect opportunity for the Base Closure Commission to step in and close a base deemed unnecessary by the US Senate, but the ELF facility was conspicuously absent from the list. Meanwhile, ELF resisters returned to the Clam Lake, Wisc. transmitter site for the ninth annual Mother's Day demonstration. Following the weekend peace camp, May 12-14, which was devoted to "the spirit of play," 16 people crossed into the facility and were charged with trespassing. Of the 16, four were transported to the Ashland County Jail for failing to cooperate, and two were held for previous warrants.

As Sam Day, Bonnie Urfer, Cory Bartholomew and John LaForge volunteer their freedom of movement in jail, serious freedom of movement is gearing up in Chicago, as ELF resisters across the region prepare for the long Peace Walk from Chicago to the Wisconsin ELF transmitter. Beginning July 1 in Chicago at the site of the first atomic pile--where the seeds of the first atomic weapon were planted-- the walkers plan to arrive at ELF August 5th, in time for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the US atomic bombings of Japanese cities.

The Peace Walkers and their supporters along the route hope to raise public awareness of the aggressive purpose of Project ELF and the US submarine fleet, and to draw attention to the current military policy of targeting Third World nations with nuclear weapons.

*For more information, contact Anathoth Community Farm,  
740 Roundlake Rd., Luck WI 54853. ☪*

## TORPEDOING THE TEST BAN

Meting in secret in Omaha, Nebraska during the week of May 29, Pentagon and weapons laboratory officials launched a deadly serious offensive. Their military objective? Sink the Comprehensive Test Ban (CTB) Treaty. Their plan? Pressure Clinton to abandon US support for a comprehensive test ban in favor of a treaty that would allow the weaponeers to detonate nuclear explosions with yields of up to 300 to 500 tons. If successful, this would turn the ongoing CTB negotiations into mere threshold test ban talks.

The current US definition of when a nuclear blast "experiment" becomes an official "test" is at a yield equivalent to four pounds of TNT. Thus, the hawks' initiative takes the already troublesome idea that small yield (hydronuclear) tests don't count, and increases that limit more than 100,000-fold into the half kiloton range. This would allow for full scale nuclear testing of the plutonium cores for certain advanced weapons designs, perhaps along with the investigation of some thermonuclear (fusion) phenomena. These tests would put the weapons labs back in the business of blasting the Nevada desert deep underground in their quest to develop new nukes. Moreover, it would legitimize testing internationally at that scale, engendering multiple proliferation risks.

All this while the ink is barely dry on the permanent extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. In the official "Principles" adopted at the NPT conference last month, the US and other signatories committed to the "completion... of the negotiations on a universal and internationally and effectively verifiable Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty no later than 1996." Comprehensive in this (and any other rational) context means zero yield, a position reiterated during the Conference by US Ambassador Ralph Earle who publicly touted the US as seeking a total ban, not a threshold. Also according to Earle, "We've entered into these principles as political commitments, and we are prepared now to begin their implementation..."

If the US reneges on its pledge, the non-nuclear nations will surely "raise hell", in the words of Roland Timerbaev, who, as a member of the Soviet delegation, helped negotiate the original NPT 25 years ago. Many analysts, including Timerbaev, believe such a betrayal of the NPT by the nuclear weapons powers could result in its rejection by some of the countries whose nuclear ambitions it was designed to curb. This brings home a point that should be patently obvious to everyone, but is often overlooked by US officials: Nuclear restraint is a multi-national necessity. If the US is not willing to practice it, we have little moral suasion when it comes to others.

**ACTION:** Tell your President, you want a treaty banning all nuclear explosions, truly zero yield, no exceptions, no thresholds.

WHITE HOUSE COMMENT LINE: 202-456-1111

WHITE HOUSE FAX LINE: 202-456-2883 OR 456-2461.

EMAIL: president@whitehouse.gov.

Source: TriValley CARES Citizen's Watch, June 1995 #

## \$ CUTS THAT COUNT

Several groups have joined together to work toward cutting the US federal budget for nuclear testing, the only path that they feel goes to the heart of the matter. They propose that operations for the Nevada Test Site be reduced to the "cold Stand-by level, saving perhaps \$60 million in the first year. Later savings are unclear, but the cold stand-by scenario would preserve the option to resume testing if necessary in the future (making the concept more palatable to DC hawks).

With even the DOE saying that it will take over \$200 billion and 75 years to stabilize (not clean up) the nuclear weapons complex, it does seem like there are wiser priorities for existing funds than reversing some of the few positive steps taken so far.

### Points being made in the battle of the budget:

- The debate on the NTS facility is about what state of readiness it should be kept in-- that is, how quickly should the US be able to resume testing? The NTS facility is now on stand-by, and could resume testing on six month's notice. DOE may be considering increasing to three years the time needed to restart testing. For FY 95, Congress appropriated \$160 million. For FY 96, the Administration is expected to propose a reduced budget.
- Taxpayers should not have to pay for more than basic overhead for the NTS. According to experts, the US nuclear weapons arsenal has been thoroughly tested. The US arsenal is accurate and reliable, having undergone more than 1,000 tests. Current US policy does not call for testing in the foreseeable future...
- The US should set a good example and scale back the NTS to "cold" standby. Nuclear proliferation and terrorism have become the greatest atomic threats to international security.
- Each nuclear blast creates the equivalent of a superfund site. The vast, radioactive caverns created by testing may never be safe for humans to approach. Radioactive contaminants from the test site can leach into ground water, spreading waste for miles.
- A number of prominent scientists and arms control experts contend that it is unnecessary to further test stockpiled nuclear weapons that have extensive proven track records.

**Contacts:** Maureen Eldredge, Military Productions Network, 202-833-4668

David Culp, Plutonium Challenge, 202-624-9352

Darryl Kimball, Physicians for Social Responsibility, 202-898-0150

**ACTION:** Contact your representatives in Washington and tell them to cut the funds for any further weapons development, assembly or testing at the Nevada Nuclear Test Site when debate comes up on the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill. All available funds should be used for cleanup, under the direction of the Western Shoshone, the true and legal stewards of the land. #

## TRACK RECORD

Greetings from the tracks! On June 10, a dozen intrepid Nuremberg Actions vigilers gathered to celebrate the eighth anniversary of the founding of the group. On hand from the original group were David Hartsough and Jackie Cabasso, joined by others from Santa Cruz to Sebastapol. A nearly equal number of law enforcement personnel, both civilian and military, seemed somewhat disappointed that the vigilers chose discussion over direct action.

Cabasso, who has been a primary source of information and expertise in the drive to keep overseas nuclear waste from being shipped through the Bay Area via the CNWS, gave an update on what had taken place at various local meetings. She also discussed the importance of the upcoming scoping meeting on June 29th. (See cover story).

However, the main thrust of her presentation was an eye witness account of the NPT conference in New York, with a great deal of information being overlooked by the mainstream press.

Contrary to many newspaper reports, there was neither consensus nor overwhelming agreement on the recent decision to extend the Treaty indefinitely and without timebound commitments to nuclear disarmament. Following a year-and-a-half long international arm twisting campaign by the US, what occurred was a skillful diplomatic maneuver by the President of the Conference, Ambassador Jayantha Dhanapala of Sri Lanka. In order to disguise deep divisions, he obtained an uncontested acknowledgement that a majority of states favored indefinite extension, without taking a vote which would have exposed disagreements.

Immediately following the bang of the gavel signifying acceptance of the extension, delegates from more than a dozen countries took the floor and expressed their dissatisfaction. The Malaysian representative began, "Let me at the outset state categorically that the decision on the indefinite extension of the Treaty does not have the consensus of the Conference. We would have preferred that a vote had been taken by secret ballot to enable states party to decide with their conscience.... In reality, indefinite extension provides a carte blanche to the nuclear weapons states... indefinite extension justifies nuclear weapons and might be interpreted as legalizing nuclear weapons for eternity."

On the positive side, a remarkable consensus did form among the over 200 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) monitoring the conference. NGOs recognize that it's up to them to make possible what the nuclear weapons states find unthinkable-- entering the next millennium with a time-bound framework for the abolition and destruction of all nuclear weapons. NGOs will be building on the new international links forged at the conference as they launch a global initiative to eliminate nuclear weapons from the face of the Earth.

Conventions prohibiting chemical and biological weapons have been successfully negotiated. Now we need one for nuclear weapons. The existence of nuclear weapons is the problem, not the numbers.

### Nuremberg Actions Wish List:

Filemaker database program and Stacker program for Windows PCMCIA fax/modem card, Type I, II or III

Many thanks to NO NUKES of the Shundahai Network for our new HP Deskjet printer!

## CALENDAR

June 15-26- **Food Not Bombs International Gathering**, at and near UN Plaza on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. 1-800-884-1136.

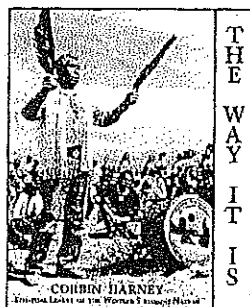
June 26, 7:00 pm- **WARRIOR-- The Life of Leonard Peltier** A documentary by Susie Baer, guest speaker John Abalone Walsh. In memory of the 20th Anniversary of FBI Assault on Jumping Bull ranch in S. Dakota, for which Leonard Peltier serves two life sentences. Veteran's Building, Room 23, Santa Cruz.

June 29, 11 am and 6 pm- **DOE Scoping Mtg. on Stockpiling Nukes**, Villa Tassajara, 6363 Tassajara Rd., in Pleasanton. No number has been published yet to sign up; Call Western States at 510-839-5877 for Tri-Valley CARES for more info.

July 29 10:00 am- **Atomic Mirror Pilgrimage Bay Area Tour, First stop- Concord Naval Weapons Station**. See enclosed flier for full schedule. For more info, call 510-893-1540.

Aug. 4-9- **August Desert Witness** at the University of Las Vegas & the Nevada Test Site. Join Fr. Miguel D'Escoto, Terry Tempest Williams, Arun Ghandi, Dolores Huerta and others for the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Japan by the United States. Register by June 15 for best rates. Call NDE at 702-646-4814

Aug. 6: 10:00 am- **NUCLEAR FREE WORLD OR NUCLEAR FREE-FOR-ALL?** Rally and Direct Action at Lawrence Livermore Labs. Caravan to University of CA at Berkeley for "Hands Around the University", 3-5 pm. Call August 6 Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons for more info: 510-832-4347.



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