Imagine a world free of nuclear weapons, be committed to that goal.

August 29: International Day Against Nuclear Tests

US NATIONAL SECURITY STATE: CORPORATE-PENTAGON-CONGRESS-PRESIDENT-SECURITY-SURVEILLANCE-NUCLEAR Complex


Contents of #12
The SANE Act
Schell, Abolish Nuclear Weapons
Uranium Double Standards
Wittner, Deterrence?
Falk and Krieger Dialogue

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Contact President: Take Nukes Off Alert
FCNL Washington Newsletter
The Nuclear Resister
Video Underground, OMNI Center
Sunday August 12 - 6:30 pm

Radio Bikini
Film explaining why did our military felt compelled to take over an exotic island paradise and blow it to kingdom come. This is the story of how our Marshallese neighbors were ended up in Northwest Arkansas. Some people in the film live in Springdale. Learn more about these quiet, smiling people you see in the grocery store, but that most of us seldom get to know. They have their own amazing history and culture, and atomic bombs are a tragic part of it that they grieve daily.

Also includes footage of an American soldier whose health was destroyed by pocketing a radioactive hunk. They didn't know. Nobody knew, but the tragedy should never be repeated.

Please Join Us.

IN HIROSHMA’S SHADOW by Noam Chomsky

NationofChange, Friday 3 August 2012

This year’s Aug. 6 memorials have special significance. They take place shortly before the 50th anniversary of “the most dangerous moment in human history,” in the words of the historian and John F. Kennedy adviser Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., referring to the Cuban missile crisis.

Aug. 6, the anniversary of Hiroshima, should be a day of somber reflection, not only on the terrible events of that day in 1945, but also on what they revealed: that humans, in their dedicated quest to extend their capacities for destruction, had finally found a way to approach the ultimate limit.

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and John F. Kennedy adviser Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., referring to the Cuban missile crisis.

Graham Allison writes in the current issue of *Foreign Affairs* that Kennedy “ordered actions that he knew would increase the risk not only of conventional war but also nuclear war,” with a likelihood of perhaps 50 percent, he believed, an estimate that Allison regards as realistic.

Kennedy declared a high-level nuclear alert that authorized “NATO aircraft with Turkish pilots ... (or others) ... to take off, fly to Moscow, and drop a bomb.”

None were more shocked by the discovery of missiles in Cuba than the men in charge of the similar missiles that the U.S. had secretly deployed in Okinawa six months earlier, surely aimed at China, at a moment of elevated regional tensions.

Kennedy took Chairman Nikita Khrushchev “right to the brink of nuclear war and he looked over the edge and had no stomach for it,” according to Gen. David Burchinal, then a high-ranking official in the Pentagon planning staff. One can hardly count on such sanity forever.

Khrushchev accepted a formula that Kennedy devised, ending the crisis just short of war. The formula’s boldest element, Allison writes, was “a secret sweetener that promised the withdrawal of U.S. missiles from Turkey within six months after the crisis was resolved.” These were obsolete missiles that were being replaced by far more lethal, and invulnerable, Polaris submarines.

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In brief, even at high risk of war of unimaginable destruction, it was felt necessary to reinforce the principle that U.S. has the unilateral right to deploy nuclear missiles anywhere, some aimed at China or at the borders of Russia, which had previously placed no missiles outside the USSR. Justifications of course have been offered, but I do not think they withstand analysis.

An accompanying principle is that Cuba had no right to have missiles for defense against what appeared to be an imminent U.S. invasion. The plans for Kennedy’s terrorist programs, Operation Mongoose, called for “open revolt and overthrow of the Communist regime” in October 1962, the month of the missile crisis, recognizing that “final success will require decisive U.S. military intervention.”

The terrorist operations against Cuba are commonly dismissed by U.S. commentators as insignificant CIA shenanigans. The victims, not surprisingly, see matters rather differently. We can at last hear their voices in Keith Bolender’s “Voices from the Other Side: An Oral History of Terrorism Against Cuba.”

The events of October 1962 are widely hailed as Kennedy’s finest hour. Allison offers them as “a guide for how to defuse conflicts, manage great-power relationships, and make sound decisions about foreign policy in general.” In particular, today’s conflicts with Iran and China.
Disaster was perilously close in 1962, and there has been no shortage of dangerous moments since. In 1973, in the last days of the Arab-Israeli war, Henry Kissinger called a high-level nuclear alert. India and Pakistan have come close to nuclear war. There have been innumerable cases when human intervention aborted nuclear attack only moments before launch after false reports by automated systems. There is much to think about on Aug. 6.

Allison joins many others in regarding Iran’s nuclear programs as the most severe current crisis, “an even more complex challenge for American policymakers than the Cuban missile crisis” because of the threat of Israeli bombing.

The war against Iran is already well underway, including assassination of scientists and economic pressures that have reached the level of “undeclared war,” in the judgment of the Iran specialist Gary Sick.

Great pride is taken in the sophisticated cyberwar directed against Iran. The Pentagon regards cyberwar as “an act of war” that authorizes the target “to respond using traditional military force,” The Wall Street Journal reports. With the usual exception: not when the U.S. or an ally is the perpetrator.

The Iran threat has recently been outlined by Gen. Giora Eiland, one of Israel’s top military planners, described as “one of the most ingenious and prolific thinkers the (Israeli military) has ever produced.”

Of the threats he outlines, the most credible is that “any confrontation on our borders will take place under an Iranian nuclear umbrella.” Israel might therefore be constrained in resorting to force. Eiland agrees with the Pentagon and U.S. intelligence, which also regard deterrence as the major threat that Iran poses.

The current escalation of the “undeclared war” against Iran increases the threat of accidental large-scale war. Some of the dangers were illustrated last month when a U.S. naval vessel, part of the huge deployment in the Gulf, fired on a small fishing boat, killing one Indian crew member and wounding at least three others. It would not take much to set off a major war.

One sensible way to avoid such dread consequences is to pursue “the goal of establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and all missiles for their delivery and the objective of a global ban on chemical weapons” – the wording of Security Council resolution 687 of April 1991, which the U.S. and U.K. invoked in their effort to provide a thin legal cover for their invasion of Iraq 12 years later.

The goal has been an Arab-Iranian objective since 1974, regularly re-endorsed, and by now it has near-unanimous global support, at least formally. An international conference to consider ways to implement such a treaty may take place in December.
Progress is unlikely unless there is mass public support in the West. Failure to grasp the opportunity will, once again, lengthen the grim shadow that has darkened the world since that fateful Aug. 6.

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THE NUCLEAR ABOLITIONIST
Working towards a nuclear weapons-free world

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Quotable
Each U.S. Trident submarine can destroy 100 cities and produce the global famine described in the study.

-- from an article, A nuclear clash could starve the world, at CNN.com, April 11, 2012

Wednesday, August 11, 2010

Nuclear Weapons: Resistance Is NOT Futile!
Dear Friends,

The anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have come and gone. The weekend surrounding those two anniversaries was filled with activities commemorating the events. In Hiroshima it was the first time ever that the U.S. Government sent a representative to attend the ceremonies to mark the moment the first atomic bomb was dropped.

There were also other events around the world commemorating the atomic bombings. Some, such as the From Hiroshima to Hope Lantern Floating Ceremony at Seattle's (Washington State) Green Lake brought people together for peace and nuclear disarmament.

Other events also commemorated the atomic bombings in their own unique solemn fashion by conducting nonviolent resistance actions in which some participants engaged in creative acts
intended to symbolically close facilities engaged in the design, production, storage or deployment of nuclear weapons.

People vigiled, demonstrated and acted (nonviolently), and some participants were arrested for their actions at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor (aka Sub Base Bangor), Vandenburg Air Force Base, California, Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico, The Pentagon, the Strategic (Nuclear) Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, Lockheed-Martin’s nuclear weapons facility in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania and Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, California.

Nuclear resisters (from left to right) Alice Zillah, Macknight Johnson and Rev. Anne Hall holding a banner, blocking the entrance to Trident nuclear submarine base Bangor, symbolically closing the base, on August 9, 2010. A total of nine resisters blocked the roadway and were arrested that day. Resisters ranged in age from 21 to 88.

People sometimes ask why people choose to engage in such actions when there are other "legal" avenues available to voice one's opinions, avenues that include voting, letters to the editor, correspondence and visits with elected officials, and public demonstrations.

The answer most provide is that they have tried all of these methods, but feel that they have had little, if any, real impact. And in light of what many international legal experts cite as the illegality (and don't forget the immorality) of nuclear weapons and the threat of their use under international law, we (as citizens) must act; we believe that it is essentially our moral obligation and our legal right.

But don't take my word for it; you should hear it from someone who has been arrested more than once, and tried and convicted for her actions. Ann "Kit" Kittredge was recently tried for her action with another resister, Denny Moore, during a Ground Zero vigil honoring Martin Luther King Jr. on January 16, 2010, in which they set up a wooden ladder near the base entrance at the Trident nuclear submarine base and strategic weapons storage facility at Bangor, Washington, and attempted to climb over the barbed wire fence onto the base. They carried with them a letter to the base commander imploring him to disarm the base.

At Kittredge's trial on May 3rd she testified on her own behalf as to the reasons for her action in January. She spoke purposefully and passionately about her act; you can read a copy of her testimony (below), which she provided. My hope is that this testimony of one resister will help people better understand why some choose to resist.

I know many people see resistance as a futile gesture, but for those who make the difficult choice to resist, it is anything but futile. It is a statement of hope, of faith, of a deep abiding belief that we can create a peaceful and sustainable world free of nuclear weapons for future generations.

May it one day be so.

Peace,

Leonard

RESISTANCE
Summer 2012 Desert Voices from Nevada Desert Experience
Jim Haber  jim@nevadadesertexperience.org via uark.edu
to jbennet

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• Breaking Bread in the Name of Peace, August 8, 6:00 pm to overnight
• Nagasaki Day Vigil of Resistance and Sunrise Ceremony at Nevada National Security Site
  (August 9, 5:30 to 8:00 a.m.)
• Educational Picket at the National Atomic Testing Museum (August 9, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
• Ediger Memorial Interfaith Celebration of Active Nonviolence (Sun. Sept. 23, 3:00 to 8:30 pm)
• Sacred Peace Walk 2012: Reflections
• Western Shoshone Mother's Day Walk/Run
• NDE Joins CW, VCNV, UFPJ and Thousands More in Chicago Demonstrations Against NATO Summit

IN OTHER NEWS
Disarm Now! Plowshares Updates
Fr. Steve Kelly was sighted post- incarceration in the guise of Jake of the Blues Brothers, the
dapper suit, courtesy of Goodwill. He was on the "go" but NOT on the "run" when he popped in.
On 7/23 Susan Crane had a probation violation hearing at which she was ordered to self-
report to FCI Dublin (where she was before) for two more months. The date to report was not set.
Sr. Anne Montgomery continues to suffer from progressing, terminal cancer. Your prayers for her are greatly appreciated.
Contact me at <jim@NevadaDesertExperience.org> or 702-646-4814.
Gratefully yours. Jim Haber, NDE Coordinator

Book Signing with Activist Medea Benjamin: *Drone Warfare, Killing by Remote Control* (Sunday Aug. 5, 2:00 to 4:00 pm)
Come hear Medea Benjamin, co-Founder of the organization CODEPINK: Women for Peace, read from her new book, *Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control*. This is an excellent conversation starter and well-rounded introduction to the subject. Benjamin is great at connecting the dots, raising ethical questions and speaking passionately.
Protests Against the Largest Drone Trade Show in the World (August 6 to 9)

**Federal Indictment Against Y-12 Protesters Includes New Felony Charge**
Frank Munger, Knoxville News Sentinel
Sister Megan Rice, 83; Michael Walli, 63; and Greg Boertje-Obed face new felony charges for breaking into Y-12 nuclear weapons plant.
READ MORE  http://readersupportednews.org/news-section2/440-occupy/12862-federal-indictment-against-y-12-protesters-includes-new-felony-charge