

PEACE CAUCUS

Autumn 1995 Newsletter

BEYOND THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY... ABOLITION 2000

Twenty-five years ago, the United States promised to negotiate an end to the nuclear arms race and to work for nuclear disarmament. This commitment was codified in Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which became law in 1970. In exchange for the disarmament pledge and a promise of assistance with "peaceful" nuclear technology, the non-nuclear weapons states which signed the Treaty agreed not to acquire weapons of their own. In April-May 1995, 175 of the 178 states party to the NPT gathered at the United Nations in New York to review the operation of the Treaty and to determine the length and terms of its extension. On May 11, a decision was made to extend the Treaty indefinitely without time bound commitments to nuclear disarmament. Many participants were disturbed by this outcome, feeling that an historic opportunity to advance the cause of nuclear disarmament was lost.

The continued failure of nuclear weapons states to pursue nuclear disarmament as they are obligated to do under Article VI of the NPT is apparent. There are more nuclear weapons in the world today than there were in 1970 when the NPT entered into force. The day after the NPT conference concluded, China carried out an underground nuclear test. France is in the process of conducting 7 to 8 nuclear tests in the Pacific in flagrant disregard of international protest boldly led by Greenpeace, in order to test a new generation of nuclear warheads.¹

Contrary to the intent of Article VI, the US plans to spend billions of dollars on a new generation of laboratory facilities in order to "maintain" its stockpile of nuclear weapons without underground testing. Rather than promoting disarmament, the experiments conducted at the National Ignition Facility (NIF) at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Dual Axis Radiographic Hydrodynamic test center at Los Alamos National Laboratory would be useful in designing new nuclear weapons, for the U.S. and its "allies." For example, a recent *Washington Post* article exploring increased French-American nuclear cooperation reported that "US scientists acknowledge that the resulting data are applicable not only to studies of aging weapons in US and French stockpiles, but to the potential design of new weapons."²

Another blow to nuclear disarmament is illustrated by the Clinton Administration's support for the US Senate's recent vote to lift all economic

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Peace Caucus
Program at-a glance
APHA Annual Meeting
Oct 30 - Nov 1

**From Warfare to Welfare:
The Economic Impact of the
Military**
Monday 12:30 - 2:00 pm

**New World Disorder:
Prospects for International
Health**
Monday 4:00 - 5:30 pm

**50 Years After Hiroshima and
Nagasaki: Time to Abolish
Nuclear Weapons**
Monday 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Soldiers and Sickness
Tuesday 12:30 - 2:00 pm

**Violence Prevention:
Strategies and Models for
Action**
Tuesday 2:00 - 3:30 pm

*** Maintaining Public Health
During War and Violence**
Wednesday 8:30 - 10:00 am

**No Place to Run, No Place to
Hide: Nuclear Waste in the
'90s**
Wednesday 2:00 - 3:30 pm

*** PROP187: Dangers to
Public Health**
Wednesday 2:00 - 5:00 pm

**Peace Caucus Business
Meeting**
Wednesday 5:45 - 7:00 pm

* Peace Caucus is co-sponsor

and some important military sanctions imposed on Pakistan 5 years ago to thwart its nuclear weapons program. This action was described by Senator John Glenn as "making a mockery out of our non-proliferation efforts."³

The US's continued commitment to nuclear weapons is also demonstrated by its plan in 1995 to spend over \$20 billion a year on nuclear programs, with more than 65 percent of the nuclear budget directed towards programs to maintain or expand the nuclear arsenal.⁴ The US plans to indefinitely maintain an arsenal estimated at 3,500 long-range "strategic" nuclear weapons, an undisclosed number of "tactical" nuclear weapons, and thousands of nuclear warheads in reserve. Moreover, the US refuses to renounce the "first use" of nuclear weapons, and opposes the initiatives of the World Health Organization and the United Nations General Assembly to seek an advisory opinion from the World Court on the illegality of nuclear weapons.

However flawed the outcome of the NPT Conference in holding nuclear nations accountable to their agreement to nuclear disarmament, the nuclear powers have failed to quiet international demands for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The struggle over the NPT galvanized an unprecedented movement of hundreds of citizens groups seeking to end the nuclear era. Taking as their motto "Abolition 2000, not abolition 3000", the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) monitoring the NPT Conference, and other concerned NGOs around the world, are calling on governments to initiate negotiations on a global treaty to abolish nuclear weapons. NGOs recognize that it is up to us to make possible what nuclear weapons states find unthinkable — entering the next millen-

nium with a time bound framework for the abolition and destruction of all nuclear weapons.

Building on new international links forged during the NPT Conference, a global initiative to eliminate nuclear weapons from the face of the earth has been launched. As a leader of this effort, former APHA President Dr. Victor W. Sidel, co-President of the International Physicians For the Prevention of Nuclear War, will be discussing the *International Physicians Movement to Abolish Nuclear Weapons* on Monday, October 30th, at 7:00 PM (Session 1208 at the annual meeting of APHA). In recognition of the 50 years since the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we urge you to join this movement by signing and circulating the Abolition 2000 petition on page 3 of this newsletter, and by generously supporting the work of participating organizations.

Much of this article was compiled from publications written by Jacqueline Cabasso and John Burroughs, respectively Executive Director and Staff Attorney of Western States Legal Foundation (WSLF). WSLF is a non-profit organization dedicated to a peaceful and nuclear free environment. Information was also abstracted from the June 1995 issue of Vital Signs, published by the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). IPPNW is the 1985 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. Physicians For Social Responsibility (PSR) is the US affiliate of IPPNW.

¹ *France Seizes 2 Ships Owned By Greenpeace.* Shenon, P. New York Times 9/2/95 page 1.

² *US Nuclear Ties to France Remain Close Despite Criticism.* Drozdia, W, and Smith, RJ. Washington Post, reprinted in the S. F. Chronicle, 9/20/95 p. A 11.

³ *Despite Nuclear Fears, Senate Acts to Lift Pakistan Curbs.* Sciolino E. New York Times. 9/22/95 p. A3.

⁴ *U.S. Arms Control and Foreign Policy Caucus. The Nuclear Weapons Budget.* May 2, 1994.

For more information or to send donations in support of the Abolition 2000 Campaign

Visit the Exhibition Booth sponsored jointly by **Physicians For Social Responsibility** and the **APHA Peace Caucus** or contact any of the following organizations:

Western States Legal Foundation 1440 Broadway, Suite # 500 Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 839-5877

Physicians For Social Responsibility 1101 14th Street NW, Wash DC 20005 (202) 898-0150

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War 126 Rogers Street, Cambridge MA 02142 (617) 868-5050

PEACE CAUCUS 1995 PROGRAM

October 30 - November 1, 1995

Monday
12:30 - 2:00 pm

1035 From Warfare to Welfare: The Economic Impact of the Military

Presider: *Dennis Davidson, MD*

12:30 Economic Costs of the Arms Race — *Victor W. Sidel, MD*

12:50 Harbor of the Martial Sun: San Diego and the Legacy of the Metropolitan - Military Complex — *Anthony Bale, PhD*

1:10 Grassroots Action for Economic Conversion — The San Diego Experience — *Marcia Boruta*

1:30 Discussion

Monday
4:00 - 5:30 pm

1169 New World Disorder: Prospects for International Health

Presider: *Robert Gould, MD*

4:00 Resurrecting Primary Health Care After Five Years of War in Yambio County, Western Equatoria, South Sudan
Suzanne Banda, MPH

4:20 Beijing and its Consequences — Will It make a Difference?
Janet Gottschalk, DrPH

4:40 Health Costs of War in Central America — TBA

5:00 Discussion

Monday
7:00 - 8:30 pm

1208 50 Years After Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Time to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

Presider: *Robert M. Gould, MD*

7:00 Remembering Hiroshima & Nagasaki -*Dennis Davidson, MD*

7:20 Enola Gay: How Will the Nuclear Holocaust Be Remembered? - *Holly Richardson*

7:40 The International Physician's Movement to Abolish Nuclear Weapons - *Victor W. Sidel, MD*

8:00 Discussion

Tuesday
12:30 - 2:00 pm

2116 Soldiers and Sickness

Presider: *Ann Hirschman, FNP*

12:30 Gulf War Syndrome and Civilian Illness - A Toxic Link
Janette D. Sherman, MD

12:50 PTSD Management and Peacekeeping Decision-Making
Asha M. George, MSPH

1:10 TBA

1:30 Discussion

Tuesday**2:00 - 3:30 pm****2174 Violence Prevention: Strategies and Models for Action**Presider: *Robert C. Wesley Jr., MD*2:00 Integrated Violence Prevention in a Public School Health Curriculum *Galen Dickey, MSPH; Carmen Montoya, BA*2:20 Health Worker Activism Against Gun Violence
*Robert C. Wesley Jr., MD*2:40 Violence and Global Militarism — *Victor W. Sidel, MD*

3:00 Discussion

Wednesday**8:30 - 10:00 am****3040 Maintaining Public Health During War and Violence**Presider: *Ahmed Moen**This session is sponsored by the International Health and Maternal and Child Health sections***Wednesday****2:00 - 3:30 pm****3160 No Place to Run, No Place to Hide: Nuclear Waste in the '90s**Presider: *Robert Gould, MD*2:00 Ward Valley and "Low-Level" Radioactive Waste
*Daniel Hirsch*2:20 Yucca Mountain and High-Level Radioactive Waste
*Judy Treichl and Steve Frishman*2:40 Nuclear Weapons and Waste: National and Global Dilemmas
Mike Veiluoa

3:00 Discussion

Wednesday**2:00 - 5:00 pm****3176.1 Proposition 187: Dangers to Public Health***This session is sponsored by the APHA Equal Health Opportunity Committee***Wednesday****5:45 - 7:00 pm****Peace Caucus Business Meeting***Everyone is welcome to attend!*

**Be Sure to Visit the Exhibition Booth Jointly Sponsored by
the Peace Caucus and Physicians for Social Responsibility**

A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

As this Peace Caucus newsletter goes to press, the US Senate has overwhelmingly voted to abolish Aid To Families with Dependent Children and to end the entitlement for cash assistance to the poor. Removing the guarantees that protect nearly everyone from starvation is perhaps the most explicitly inhumane expression of the ravaging of health and environmental legislation now underway in America. In the struggle between "Guns versus Butter," priorities remain grotesquely distorted in favor of military spending. Next year's military budget is expected to remain at roughly 90% of Cold War averages, apparently with no serious debate between the Clinton Administration and the Republican Congress over how much to spend over the next 5 years.¹

Some of the most recent examples of the subordination of public health to the prerogatives of militarism have been duly recorded by The Center For Defense Information:

For the total cost of the Clinton Administration's proposed FY 1996 military budget (\$258 Billion) ...

... you could pay the operating costs for most of the nation's 6,500 hospitals for one year or fund Aid to Families with Dependent Children at its current funding level for 16 years

For the amount that the Clinton Administration requested for the F-22 fighter program for FY 1996 (\$2.1 Billion) ...

... you could double federal funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

For the cost of a single B-2 bomber (\$2.2 Billion) ...

... you could pay the annual health care expenses for about 1.3 million Americans

For the total projected cost of the ballistic missile defense program (\$91 Billion) ...

... you could fund the Head Start program at its current funding level and provide early education for 740,000 children for 26 years

For the total projected cost to build 1,000 F/A-18 E/F Hornet attack aircraft (\$89 Billion)...

... you could fund the National School Lunch Program at its current funding level for 21 years

For the cost to build 20 additional B-2 bombers (\$31 Billion) ...

... you could provide care and treatment for over 250,000 HIV-positive patients from the time of infection until death

A SECOND CALL FOR NON-COOPERATION WITH THE ARMS INDUSTRY

Weapons are big business in the United States. In 1994 the US sold \$12 billion in weapons to the rest of the world. Over the past 5 years the US has sold nearly \$63 billion in arms, almost triple the next biggest exporter, Russia. Over the past 5 years, 85% of all US arms exports went to non-democratic and often brutal regimes; in Panama, Iraq and Somalia such arms were turned against American forces. The Clinton Administration has done little to curb the proliferation of arms sales and appears eager for arms exports. Clinton rejected appeals to restrict arms sales abroad and reaffirmed that arms sales are a "legitimate instrument" of American foreign policy. Moreover, President Clinton was the first President to explicitly acknowledge that the protection of American jobs and of the US industrial base is a legitimate factor to be taken into account in deciding whether to approve a weapons sale.^{1, 2}

These weapons are made by private companies and sold for profit. Buyers meet sellers at conventions, display the weapons, and sell them. Such a bazaar occurs each fall when the US Air Force Association meets in Washington, DC, for what has been called, "an open market for death". You all know this. What you might have forgotten is that this occurred in the Sheraton Washington Hotel and that APHA met in the same

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JOIN THE PEACE CAUCUS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes, I want to join the APHA Peace Caucus!

Enclosed is my check, made payable to "APHA Peace Caucus", for \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Tel _____

New Member

APHA Member?

Yes

Renewal

No

Full Member \$10

Contributing Member \$25

Sustaining Member \$50

Return to: Peace Caucus, 2644 Sherwood Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84108

Non-cooperation (continued from p. 6)

hotel and used the same exhibit hall a few weeks after the death profiteers. The Washington Sheraton Hotel is one of the "key properties used by APHA when meeting in Washington."

The APHA Peace Caucus decided 2 years ago to challenge this state of affairs. We submitted a policy resolution, in essence asking that APHA inform the Sheraton Hotel that having APHA meet in the hotel would require the hotel to cease hosting the arms bazaars. In response, APHA staff indicated it "was probably impossible and unfeasible to preclude APHA use of convention facilities that were also used by those promoting causes contrary to APHA policy." The rejection of our resolution was accompanied by a contradictory APHA Board reaffirmation of existing policy on convention facilities selection — "that in the selection and assignment of sites, hotels, and other facilities for official business at the APHA annual meetings, the Executive Board and staff will consider factors including location, logistics, finances, community health practices, anti-discrimination practices, and labor-management relations." That is APHA policy. In my opinion, this policy might easily be adapted to include a challenge to the Sheraton hotel system. After all, if the Sheraton permitted a porno show in the exhibit halls, the Washington, DC police would probably close them down. Is not an arms bazaar the best example of pornography you can imagine?

For the present, the Sheraton Washington hotel remains a meeting place of APHA. The Disarm Bazaar Coalition has come together to oppose this morbid marketplace and strive to drive the hawkers from Washington DC as other groups have successfully done in Chicago, Los Angeles and Boston. For further information about these efforts, please contact the Disarm Bazaar Coalition, 2111 Florida Ave., NW, Washington DC 20008 (202) 462-8465—or come to the Peace Caucus meeting at the APHA annual meeting on Wednesday, November 1, 1995, 5:45 - 7:00 PM.

Larry Egbert, MD

¹ *Ending Arms Sales Hypocrisy*. Editorial, San Francisco Chronicle 9/19/95 page A18

² *Quietly But Eagerly, US Peddles Arms Around the Globe*. Jim Mann. Los Angeles Times. Reprinted in the San Francisco Chronicle World section 9/19/95 page A8.

Source: "New Names, New Faces, Same Old Pork," Council For A Livable World press release, July, 1995, as cited in The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists September/October 1995.

\$290 million

Cost of unrequested weapons to be built in Newt Gingrich's district:

\$3.35 billion

Cost of unrequested weapons that will be built in or near House National Security Committee members' districts:

\$4.5 billion

Cost of weapons not requested by the Defense Department but added to its 1996 appropriation by the House National Security Committee:

**APHA Peace Caucus
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