

# PEACE CAUCUS

Autumn 1996 Newsletter

## BEYOND THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY

The signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) on September 24, 1996 marks an important milestone for arms control and disarmament advocates the world over who have worked for nearly five decades to end nuclear testing. However, we must recognize what the treaty will—and will not—accomplish. The agreement comes 30—if not 40—years too late to meet historical expectations that it will halt the modernization and development of nuclear weapons and lead to the deterioration and decay of existing arsenals. On the contrary, the final text, which bans underground nuclear explosions but carefully avoids defining a nuclear test, preserves the dichotomy between nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states, and sidesteps any direct linkage to nuclear disarmament.

The CTBT will ban large nuclear explosions. But it will not cap the “development” of new nuclear weapons by the United States or—to greater or lesser extents—the other nuclear states. Contrary to global expectations for the CTBT, the U.S. is planning to beef up its already vast laboratory-based infrastructure to ensure its overwhelming nuclear weapons superiority well into the 21st century by preserving the capacity to maintain, test, modify, design, and produce nuclear weapons—with or

*(continued on p. 2)*

## THE PEACE CAUCUS CELEBRATES ITS 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CHAIRPERSON'S NOTES

The Peace Caucus is 10 years old this year! A good number of peacemaking issues have been addressed over this decade. However, most would agree there are a number of issues yet to be addressed. A new cadre of leaders and workers are needed. Some of the old ones are worn out! Please come to the Peace Caucus Business Meeting: Wednesday, November 20th, 5:45 to 7:00 P.M. at the Hotel Sheraton New York, Carnegie II room, prepared to learn about peacemaking issues and to assume new responsibilities. With one of our Peace Caucus members, Dr. Barry Levy, assuming the Presidency of APHA for the upcoming year, the Peace Caucus and the issues we care about will have increased visibility and we all will have increased responsibilities.

*(continued on p. 6)*

Peace Caucus  
Program at-a-glance  
APHA Annual Meeting  
November 18 -20  
1996

Session 1175  
**Violence as a Public Health  
Issue**  
Monday 4:00 - 5:30 pm  
Hilton  
Sutton South

Session 1225  
**Spoils of War: Landmines  
and Other Aftermath**  
Monday 7:00 - 8:30 pm  
Hilton  
Sutton South

Session 2131  
**50 Years is Enough**  
Tuesday 12:30 - 2:00 pm  
Hilton  
Petit Trianon

Session 2186  
**Healing From War**  
Tuesday 2:00 - 3:30 pm  
Hilton  
Rendezvous Trianon

Session 3156.1  
**Unto the Seventh Generation:  
The Environmental Assault  
on Public Health**  
Wednesday 2:00 - 3:30 pm  
Hilton  
Mercury Ballroom

**Peace Caucus Business  
Meeting**  
Wednesday 5:45 -7:00 pm  
Sheraton New York  
Carnegie II

*(continued from p. 1)*

without underground testing. In the future, nuclear weapons design will be advanced through computer simulations coupled with archived data from more than 1000 past tests and new diagnostic information obtained from above-ground laboratory experiments and "zero yield" underground tests. A retooled U.S. nuclear weapons design and manufacturing complex will be capable of turning out 150 weapons or more a year.

Over the next decade, the U.S. is planning to invest \$40 billion in the deceptively named "Stockpile Stewardship and Management" Program (SS&M). In current dollars, that's more than twice as much as was spent on the original Manhattan Project to develop the first atomic bombs in the 1940s. It is above the Department of Energy's (DOE) Cold War annual spending average for nuclear weapons research, development, testing, production, and disassembly. It is roughly the same as the amount expended for these categories in FY 1983. That was the year President Reagan was determined to increase the size and capabilities of the U.S. arsenal. According to the JASONS, a group of scientists advising DOE, "the U.S. nuclear infrastructure under [Science Based Stockpile Stewardship] will retain a capability to design and build new weapons, which could be deployed should the need arise and lead to the resumption of testing."

President Clinton has conditioned U.S. acceptance of the CTBT on a set of "safeguards," including the conduct of a "Science Based" Stockpile Stewardship program, maintenance of modern laboratory facilities to attract and retain a continuing supply of nuclear weapons scientists, and the readiness to resume underground nuclear testing. Earlier this year it was learned that the U.S. was considering the possibility of using a nuclear weapon against an alleged underground chemical weapons plant in Libya. A New York Times story confirmed that the U.S. is developing a "new" earth-penetrating nuclear warhead which will be ready to enter the stockpile in 1997. Is this a "new" weapon? It is described by DOE as a "modification" of an old weapon. However, it clearly has a new military purpose. What were formerly referred to as "new" weapons are now called "modifications."

Officials claim that the U.S. is not developing any new nuclear weapons, but there are five nuclear weapon modifications in the FY 1997 DOE budget request to Congress. Sandia National Laboratory's FY 1995-2000 Institutional Plan describes current U.S. nuclear weapons development planning policy: "The new weapon procurement strategy calls for ongoing development of advanced weapons systems to retain America's technological edge in military systems. In contrast to past practice, however, these new weapon systems may not be immediately produced in quantity. Instead, the nation will retain the capability to produce them quickly in response to threatening world conditions."

The CTBT will not stop the development of nuclear weapons by technologically advanced countries, but it may make the U.S. and other nuclear weapon states, which typically have "proof-tested" new designs before deploying them, reluctant to actually deploy new designs developed through laboratory experiments. This may not be true in all cases. For example, it appears that there has been no proof-test for the new earth-penetrating warhead mentioned above.

Further, the nuclear weapon states retain the right to withdraw from the treaty in their "supreme national interest" to conduct more tests. In reality, there have been no dramatic changes in nuclear weapons design over the past 40 years, and no completely new weapon design types have been successfully developed over that time. One of the more frightening prospects for the future is that the new technologies developed as part of Stockpile Stewardship may actually serve as "drivers" for the development of entirely new kinds of weapons, such as pure fusion or directed energy weapons.

Most importantly, the CTBT will not affect the tens of thousands of nuclear weapons that are already deployed. In fact, the SS&M Program is intended to maintain a START II level arsenal, estimated at some 10,000 nuclear weapons (including active and reserve stockpiles of strategic and tactical weapons) well into the 21st century.

A CTBT is important as an environmental measure, as a symbol of the nuclear states' commitment to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and as a second barrier to proliferation. It will also be the

*(continued on p. 3)*

(continued from p. 2)

first truly global regime regulating nuclear weapons, and could therefore serve as a basis and precedent for global reduction and elimination of nuclear arsenals. Its endorsement by virtually all states means that there is now a global ban on test explosions of nuclear weapons. In that sense it represents a recognition that nuclear weapons must never again be used in any circumstance. But it must not be allowed to become an end in and of itself. A CTBT should, rather, represent the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons. Fifty-one years into the nuclear age, it's time to end the Manhattan Project. Public funding for nuclear weapons research and development should be terminated.

In accordance with their obligations under Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, as recently reaffirmed by the International Court of Justice, governments must now "pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects"—including control of all weapons-useable fissile materials, an end to laboratory-based nuclear weapons research, development and testing, and closure of all nuclear test sites in consultation with the indigenous peoples of each region. Negotiations must be conducted in a spirit of determination and flexibility, on a bilateral, multilateral and global basis, in whatever forums are necessary to meet this obligation. Coordinated unilateral actions should also be pursued.

Furthermore, governments must immediately initiate negotiations on a nuclear weapons aboli-

tion convention that requires the elimination of all nuclear weapons within a timebound framework. Negotiation, planning and monitoring the process of nuclear weapons abolition must include the participation of citizens and non-governmental organizations.

A world free of nuclear weapons cannot be achieved in a non-proliferation, test ban regime that allows a small group of states to continue to maintain nuclear arsenals. Our common security requires the elimination of nuclear weapons from the face of the earth.

Jackie Cabasso

*Ms. Cabasso is Executive Director of Western States Legal Foundation, a non-profit, public interest organization which monitors, analyzes, and challenges nuclear weapons programs at the Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos, and Sandia National Laboratories, and at the Nevada Test Site. Western States Legal Foundation seeks to abolish nuclear weapons, compel open public environmental review of hazardous nuclear technologies and ensure appropriate management of nuclear waste.*

For more information contact WSLF at:  
1440 Broadway, Suite 500, Oakland, CA 94612.  
Tel: (510) 839-5877. Fax: (510) 839-5397.  
Email: WSLF@igc.apc.org

#### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>*Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Safeguards, Fact Sheet.*  
The White House, Office of the Press Secretary,  
August 11, 1995.

<sup>2</sup>*Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Stewardship, The Role of Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratories.*  
Jonathan E. Medalia, Congressional Research Service  
Report for Congress, May 12, 1994, pps. CRS-6.

**In 1995, a global initiative, ABOLITION 2000, was launched to eliminate nuclear weapons from the face of the earth. 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 10TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

November 18 - November 20, 1996

Monday

4:00 - 5:30 pm

Hilton - Sutton South

### 1175 Violence as a Public Health Issue

Presider: *Robert Gould, MD*

4:00 Effects of Violence on the Lives of Children —  
*Janet R. Kahn, PhD*

4:20 Implementing a Human Rights Curriculum in Schools of  
Public Health — *Vincent Iacoppino, MD, PhD*

4:40 Medical Students' Response to Violence — *Andrew Sikora*

5:00 Lessons from the Physicians Movement to Prevent Nuclear  
War — *Victor W. Sidel, MD*

Monday

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Hilton - Sutton South

### 1225 Spoils of War: Landmines and Other Aftermath

Presider: *Ann Hirschman, FNP*

7:00 Landmines: Psycho - Social Issues — *David Kuhns*

7:20 After Effects of War — *Greg Payton*

7:40 Landmines: Political Issues — *Caleb Rossiter, PhD*

8:00 Discussion

Tuesday

12:30 - 2:00 pm

Hilton - Petit Trianon

### 2131 50 Years Is Enough

Presider: *Lee Loe*

12:30 Structural Adjustment: Privatization, Poverty and the Poor  
— *Lisa McGowan*

12:45 Partners in Health: Privatization, Poverty and the Health of  
the Poor in Peru — *Mercedes Becerra-Valdivia, MSc*

1:00 The Consumption of the Poor: Tuberculosis in the Late 20th  
Century — *Carole Mitnick, MSc*

1:15 Women, Poverty and AIDS — *TBA*

1:30 Discussion

**Let Your Voice For Peace Be Counted !  
Return Your 1996 Membership Dues  
The Peace Caucus Needs Your Support !**

## PEACE CAUCUS 10TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM 1986 - 1996

### Tuesday

2:00 - 3:30 pm

Hilton - Rendezvous  
Trianon

#### 2186 Healing From War

Presider: *Lawrence Egbert, MD, MPH*

2:00 Healing From War in El Salvador — *Lanny Smith, MD*

2:20 Ç'Est Comme Ça - Mental Health In Rwanda —  
*Lizz Frost, MSW*

2:40 Nicaragua: The Current Status — *Antonio Jarquin, MD*

3:00 Healing the Children of War — *Janet R. Kahn, PhD*

3:20 Discussion

### Wednesday

2:00 - 3:30 pm

Hilton - Mercury  
Ballroom

#### 3156.1 Unto the Seventh Generation: The Environmental Assault on Public Health

Presider: *Patrice Sutton, MPH*

2:00 Dursban (Chlorpyrifos) Illness in an Exposed Population —  
*Janette D. Sherman, MD*

2:20 Thyroid Dysfunction and Cancers Among Down-Winders at  
Hanford — *Charles M. Grossman, MD*

2:40 Storage of PCBs in US Early Warning Stations in  
Newfoundland — *Lawrence Egbert, MD, MPH*

3:00 Discussion

### Wednesday

5:45 - 7:00 pm

Sheraton New York  
Carnegie II

#### Peace Caucus Business Meeting

*All are welcome*

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

(continued from p. 1)

One particular peacemaking issue presents itself, front and center, for our activism in this next year: **THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO BAN LANDMINES**. APHA has a resolution on the books, passed in 1994, that recommended three action steps:

- (1) that the United States Congress extend the moratorium on trade in landmines (current status: the moratorium continues),
- (2) that the United States work in the United Nations to bring about an international ban on the use, production, stockpiling, sale, transfer, or export of antipersonnel mines, with appropriate mechanisms for inspection and enforcement (current status: the United States is currently *opposing* early implementation of the global Ban), and
- (3) that the United States increase contributions to organizations assisting victims of landmines (current status: not sure, but probably not much increase).

In May of this year the UN completed its Review Conference of the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons. That included a protocol on antipersonnel landmines, and the U.S. delegation along with certain other nations blocked progress on key elements of the international Ban. Following that blockage, the support for banning landmines has gained momentum. According to Jody Williams, the US Coordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, "There has been a sea-change in the international attitude toward removing the scourge of antipersonnel mines from the world".

This progress has occurred under the visionary leadership of Canada which convened a pro-ban Conference October 3-5, 1996, in Ottawa. At that Conference, the Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister, Lloyd Axworthy, established a timetable with the year 2000 as the effective date for a global ban on landmines, and further announced a December 1997 target date for signing the treaty. Our work is cut out for us to move the United States into the community of nations calling for this early enactment of a ban.

Do you want to learn more about this issue? Come to a session at the New York APHA meeting on Monday, November 18 from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. "Spoils of War: Landmines and other Aftermath" We will hear Caleb Rossiter, PhD, speak on the politics of the Ban, and will hear David Kuhns, PA, speak on his experience working in Afghanistan with landmine victims. Also, we will consider submission of a late-breaking resolution on the early implementation of the ban.

We need a Peace Caucus *filled* with activists who will take on tasks during the leadership of Dr. Levy. Please attend that Business Meeting of the Peace Caucus on Wednesday, November 20th, 5:45 - 7:00 P.M. There and then we will assess our strengths, select our leadership and define our issues for the coming year.

Finally, please use the self addressed envelope included with this newsletter to send in your \$10 dues plus any greater contribution you can make, so we can know our financial strength as we plan for next year. Only if each peace activist in APHA contributes will we be able to become more effective, and to communicate that activity to the membership.

*David Spence, MD*

- Approximately 26,000 people a year, nearly all of them civilian, are killed or maimed by antipersonnel mines.
- There are currently over 100 million mines scattered around the world. That is approximately 1 mine for every 50 people on earth.
- Recent attempts to strengthen international law regulating the use of antipersonnel mines are totally inadequate. The push to use so-called "smart" mines, those which self destruct or self-neutralize, does not solve the basic problem of a mine's indiscriminate nature; i.e., its inability to distinguish between combatants and civilians.

## 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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New Member

APHA Member?

Yes

Renewal

No

Full Member \$10

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**Return to: Peace Caucus, 2644 Sherwood Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84108**  
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### *Recommended Reading*

#### **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE 1990s:**

#### **IN THE SHADOW OF GLOBAL TRANSFORMATION AND MILITARISM**

Guest Editors: *Patrice Sutton and Robert Gould*

#### Contents

*John McMurtry*

The Social Immune System and the Cancer Stage of Capitalism

*Thomas Bodenheimer*

The Industrial Revolution in Health Care

*Gilbert Elbaz*

The Activist Construction of the AIDS Crisis

*Barry S. Levy*

Health and Social Effects of Worldwide Economic Transformation

*Emily Merideth & Garrett Brown*

The Maquiladora Health and Safety Support Network

*Janet Gottschalk*

Cairo to Beijing: Disaster Averted?

*Jody Williams*

Landmines: A Global Economic Crisis

*Velma L. Campbell & J. Ross Vincent*

Chemical Weapons Destruction

*Michael Veiluva*

An Alternative View of the Cleanup of the Nuclear Weapons Complex

*Jacqueline Cabasso & Patrice Sutton*

The Role of Laboratory-Based Testing of Nuclear Weapons

*Victor W. Sidel & Robert C. Wesley, Jr.*

Violence as a Public Health Problem

*Robert Gould*

Review of "Understanding Health Policy"

**TO ORDER "PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE 1990s" SEND \$12 TO:**  
 Social Justice, P.O. Box 40601, San Francisco, CA 94140

APHA Peace Caucus  
2644 Sherwood Drive  
Salt Lake City, UT 84108

**WAR AND PUBLIC HEALTH** Edited by *Barry S. Levy & Victor W. Sidel*

**Co-published with APHA. This is the first book that comprehensively describes the relationship of war and public health. The book**

- documents the impact of war on public health.
- describes what health professionals can do to minimize the consequences of war and to help prevent war.
- covers the effects of war on health, human rights, and the environment.
- discusses the health effects of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons systems, their public health consequences, and the methods by which public health professionals can work for the abolition of these weapons.
- deals with both the direct consequences of the use of conventional weapons and the role of the international arms trade, including the diversion of resources that could otherwise be used for health and human welfare.
- discusses especially vulnerable populations, such as women, children, and refugees.
- includes chapters on the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, and wars in Central America.
- explores the roles of health professionals and of health organizations during war and in preventing war and its consequences.

A wide range of individuals, including physicians, nurses, and other health professionals, will find this book enlightening and useful in their work. It will be valuable for both education and research for faculty and students in schools of public health, medicine, nursing, other health professions, law, economics, international studies, peace and conflict resolution, military studies, diplomacy, journalism and other fields.

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