



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION



NUMBER 05

A Monthly Newsletter for Strengthening
Awareness of Nuclear Abolition

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supported by Soka Gakkai International.

IPS, the global news agency, brings you independent news and views on nuclear abolition. In this newsletter you will find in-depth reports by IPS correspondents and project partners from around the world as well as columns by experts, in addition to special sections for news from international NGOs and a review of the global media for a glimpse of what is happening on the ground. Join us in helping strengthen awareness about the abolition of nuclear weapons – and encourage your friends and colleagues to subscribe to this free monthly newsletter.

DISARMAMENT: Africa Joins the Nuclear-Free Club

By Fareed Mahdy*

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By Fareed Mahdy*

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DISARMAMENT: U.S. Says No to Nukes, Yes to Conventional Arms

By Thalif Deen

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DISARMAMENT: UN Conference Mulls Over Nuclear Abolition

By Taro Ichikawa

TOKYO (IDN-InDepth News Service) - If a world without nuclear weapons is not to remain distant and just a dream, the nuclear haves must demonstrate political will, leadership and flexibility at the landmark Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference slated for May next year in New York. *MORE >>*

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CAIRO, Aug 26 (IPS) - Africa, the second-largest continent after Asia, has now become the world's largest nuclear-free zone comprising 53 countries with about a billion people. This means denuclearisation of one of the richest uranium producing regions.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the African Union (AU) announced mid-August that the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (NWFZ) Treaty has come into force.

This was after Burundi became the 28th African state to ratify the treaty Jul. 15. Algeria and Burkina Faso were the first African countries to ratify it in 1998, two years after its signature.

Its entry comes amidst reports of intensive exploitation of uranium mines in Africa by European and Chinese-backed multinational corporations. It now ensures that the southern hemisphere is now free of nuclear weapons.

Under the treaty all parties are required to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the IAEA. These agreements are equivalent to those required under the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

The treaty also commits its parties "to apply the highest standard of security and physical protection of nuclear material, facilities, and equipment to prevent theft and unauthorised use, as well as prohibits armed attacks against nuclear installations within the zone."

The treaty officially declares Africa a nuclear weapons free zone. It was drafted in Johannesburg and Pelindaba in June 1995, and opened for signature in Cairo Apr. 11, 1996.

The treaty is also called the Treaty of Pelindaba after the Pelindaba nuclear research facility near the Hartbeespoort dam west of Pretoria in South Africa. Pelindaba is South Africa's main nuclear research centre run by the Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa. This is where South Africa's atomic bombs were built and stored in the 1970s.

"The African NWFZ, similar to other nuclear weapons free zones in Latin America and the Caribbean, Southeast Asia, South Pacific and Central Asia, is an important regional confidence and security-building measure and would contribute to our efforts for a world free from nuclear weapons," said IAEA director general Mohamed ElBaradei.

He said the IAEA welcomed the treaty's support of "the use of nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes, and trusts that the use of nuclear technologies in Africa would contribute to the continent's economic and social development."

The process of declaring Africa a nuclear weapons free zone was launched at the former Organisation of African Unity (OAU) heads of state and government meeting in Cairo in 1964. The African leaders declared their readiness "to undertake, through an international agreement to be concluded under United Nations auspices, not to manufacture or acquire control of nuclear weapons."

The leaders based their position on international agreements such as the UN General Assembly resolution of Dec. 11, 1975 that considered "nuclear- weapon-free zones one of the most effective means for preventing the proliferation, both horizontal and vertical, of nuclear weapons."

The African leaders agreed "the need to take all steps in achieving the ultimate goal of a world entirely free of nuclear weapons, as well as of the obligations of all states to contribute to this end."

They said "the African nuclear-weapon-free zone will constitute an important step towards strengthening the non-proliferation regime, promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, promoting general and complete disarmament and enhancing regional and international peace and security."

The African leaders said an "African nuclear-weapon-free zone will protect African states against possible nuclear attacks on their territories." It would also "keep Africa free of environmental pollution by radioactive wastes and other radioactive matter." The treaty commits members not to dump nuclear waste. >>>

But the leaders also expressed their support for Article 4 of the NPT that recognises "the inalienable right of all states parties to develop research on production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination."

The leaders agreed to promote regional cooperation for the development and practical application of nuclear energy.

Africa has some of the richest uranium mines. Many industrialised countries depend on uranium from Africa. France relies entirely on uranium exploitation in Niger to operate its 58 nuclear power plants.

Other uranium producers on the continent are Algeria, Botswana, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zambia.

Africa is also reported to be one of the largest nuclear, radioactive and toxic waste-dumping sites, together with Southeast Asia. Somalia is reported to be a major nuclear waste dumping site.

Another treaty creating a zone free of nuclear weapons in Central Asia came into force Mar. 21 this year. Five countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan - are parties to the treaty.

This treaty was the first of its kind comprising states of the former Soviet Union, and is the first such zone in the Northern Hemisphere. Each of the five states hosted former Soviet nuclear weapons infrastructure. They now confront common problems of environmental damage resulting from the production and testing of Soviet nuclear weapons.

Like the African Treaty, the Central Asian pact forbids development, manufacture, stockpiling, acquisition or possession of any nuclear explosive device within the zone.

Similar treaties are in force in South America (the treaty of Tlatelolco), the South Pacific (the treaty of Rarotonga), Southeast Asia (the treaty of Bangkok), and Antarctica (the Antarctic treaty).

(*This article is a part of an IPS-Soka Gakkai International (SGI) project on nuclear abolition. The writer is a correspondent of the IDN-InDepthNews service.) (END/2009)

DISARMAMENT: Egypt Rejects U.S. Nuclear Umbrella

By Fareed Mahdy*

CAIRO, Aug 20 (IPS) - The spectre of a U.S. nuclear umbrella for the Middle East haunted the U.S.- Egyptian summit this week. In the run-up to President Hosni Mubarak's first Washington visit in five years, both the Egyptian leader and his senior aides categorically rejected an undeclared U.S. offer to guarantee defence of the region against atomic weapons as part of a comprehensive Middle East peace plan.



A nuclear umbrella is usually used for the security alliances of the United States with non-nuclear states such as Japan, South Korea, much of Europe, Turkey, Canada, and Australia, originating with the Cold War with the then Soviet Union. For some countries it was an alternative to acquiring nuclear weapons themselves.

According to knowledgeable sources, the Egyptian President insisted with President Barack Obama on Aug. 18 that "what the Middle East needs is peace, security, stability and development," not nuclear weapons.

In doing so, Mubarak reaffirmed Egypt's pledge underlying the country's commitment since 1974 for the establishment of a "nuclear free Middle East".

Pre-empting discussion on the issue, Mubarak said in an exclusive interview with the leading Egyptian daily Al-Ahram on Aug. 17 that "Egypt will not be part of any American nuclear umbrella intended to protect the Gulf countries."

Such an umbrella, he said, "would imply accepting foreign troops and experts on our land - and we do not accept that." Mubarak also emphasised that a U.S. nuclear umbrella "would imply an implicit acceptance that there is a regional nuclear power - we do not accept that either." >>>



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The Egyptian president asserted that "the Middle East does not need any nuclear powers, be they Iran or Israel - what we need is peace, security, stability and development." In any case, "we have not received any official communication regarding such a proposal," he added.

On the same day, Suleiman Awad, spokesperson of the Egyptian Presidency, also commented on a U.S. nuclear umbrella in the region. "This is not the first time the issue is raised; it is part of the U.S. defence policy," the presidential spokesperson said. "What is new is that it is raised now for the Middle East."

At the height of the Sino-Indian war that coincided closely with the Cuban missile crisis in October 1962, the U.S. Administration under president John F. Kennedy made an informal offer of a nuclear umbrella to India at a time when the country felt constrained to seek U.S. military support to defend itself against China.

Commenting on alleged U.S. nuclear plans in the Middle East now, Awad said: "It is absolutely rejectable both in form and content. Instead of talking about a nuclear umbrella, the Iranian nuclear file should be dealt with (in a spirit of) dialogue and flexibility from both sides - the West, and Iran."

He added: "Iran has the right to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, like any other country signatory of the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty), provided that it proves that its programme is for peaceful uses."

Mubarak's spokesperson then underlined: "At the same time, this must be accompanied, simultaneously, by a serious move vis-à-vis Israel's nuclear capacity, in order to avoid accusations of double standards."

These remarks are in continuity with Egypt's 35-year-long campaign aiming at the establishment of a "nuclear free Middle East". In 1990, Mubarak revitalised the Egyptian initiative through a new, larger plan to declare the Middle East a "weapons of mass destruction free region", including nuclear weapons.

The Egyptian initiative has drawn support from most Arab countries and has been recently reaffirmed by Amre Musa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, representing all the 22 Arab countries.

Musa declared on Jul. 5: "It is a must to free the Middle East of nuclear weapons."

Arab support for the "nuclear free Middle East" initiative has gathered added strength particularly in the Gulf Arab countries in the wake of the U.S., Israel, and Europe alleging that Iran intends to build nuclear weapons.

Iran has systematically refuted these allegations, assuring that its nuclear programme is meant for peaceful use and nuclear power generation. The U.S., Israel and Europe are adamant that they will not allow Iran to develop nuclear weapons.

This avowal contrasts with the positions of Russia and China, who do not want a nuclear armed Iran but opt for other ways to prevent this from happening. The Arabs also have more doubts than certainty about Iran's alleged intentions to development nuclear weapons.

The Western view has been implicitly challenged by the new Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Yukiya Amano of Japan. He told reporters Jul. 3 after his appointment that he did not see "any hard evidence of Iran trying to gain the capability to develop nuclear arms."

Asked by Reuters' Sylvia Westall whether he believed Iran was seeking nuclear weapons capability, Amano, veteran diplomat and senior non-proliferation expert, said: "I don't see any evidence in IAEA official documents about this."

Two days later, in an exclusive interview with Kuwait daily Al-Anba' on Jul. 5, the secretary general of the League of Arab States was asked whether Iran represented a "real threat" to the region. "There is no documented evidence (that proves) the existence of an Iranian military nuclear programme," Musa replied.

"There is only one nuclear state (in the Middle East) that has nuclear weapons, and it is Israel," the Arab League's chief stressed.

Although it started developing nuclear weapons in the mid-sixties, Israel's successive governments have systematically refused to deny or confirm the possession of a nuclear arsenal. >>>



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Nevertheless, the Stockholm International Peace Institute (SIPRI) ranks Israel as the sixth world nuclear power on the basis of the number of deployed nuclear warheads in January 2009.

According to SIPRI figures, Israel is second only to the bloc of the five UN Security Council permanent members (U.S., Russia, UK, France, China), with more deployed warheads (80) than India (60-70) and Pakistan (60).

North Korea is believed to have produced enough plutonium to build a small number of nuclear warheads, although it is unclear whether it has manufactured an operational weapon, says SIPRI.

Unlike the U.S., Russia, UK, France and China, Israel is not a signatory to the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

However Israel is one of eight states which, as of January this year, possessed between them a total of more than 23,300 nuclear weapons, including operational warheads, spares, those in both active and inactive storage, and intact warheads scheduled for dismantlement, according to SIPRI.

"India and Pakistan, which along with Israel are de facto nuclear weapon states outside the NPT, continue to develop new missile systems capable of delivering nuclear weapons and are also expanding their capacities to produce fissile material," SIPRI reports.

The SIPRI numbers have been questioned, however. For example, former U.S. president Jimmy Carter recently declared: "Israel has 150 nuclear warheads, or more."

Prestigious Egyptian journalist, writer and political analyst Mohamed Hassanein Heykal, who served as a close advisor to late Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser and Anwar Sadat, says that Israel has 200 nuclear warheads.

The U.S. based Arms Control Association (ACA), which was founded in 1971 as a non-partisan organisation dedicated to promoting public understanding of and support for effective arms control policies, estimates that Israel possesses between 75 to 200 nuclear warheads.

Egyptian army intelligence sources estimate the number of Israeli nuclear warheads as ranging between 230 and 250.

Israel has never denied any of these reports and figures.

The Arab-backed Egyptian initiative is based on the fact that the sole nuclear threat in the Middle East is Israel.

A top Egyptian diplomatic source, who asked not to be named, told this reporter that Egyptian officials have always argued that the U.S. "lacks any legitimacy to demand Iran, which has not developed any nuclear weapon, halt its nuclear programme, while treating the only proved nuclear power in the region with silky hands."

The source said "this argument was put on the table" by Mubarak during his meeting with Obama. "Egypt has always stated that had the U.S. pressed Israel to dismantle its nuclear weapons, it would have been now in a strong and legitimate position to stop any potential Iranian nuclear aspirations," the source said.

The source recalled Arab League secretary general Musa's recent statement that "it is a must to free the Middle East of nuclear weapons - the existence of Israeli nuclear weapons violates the non-proliferation principle and encourages others to have nuclear programmes."

Hessam Zaki, spokesperson of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said earlier this month in a public statement that "Egypt has seized every possible opportunity to discuss, at all levels and in all meetings, that the Middle East should be declared a nuclear-free region."

Egyptian officials point out that the U.S.-Egyptian summit has taken place at a point in time that seems appropriate to discuss nuclear disarmament. Obama promised in Prague last April to work for a world free of nuclear weapons.

On Jul. 6, the U.S. President signed an understanding with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in Moscow aimed at reducing a part of their stockpiles of nuclear weapons within seven years.

The Moscow understanding, which includes intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched missiles is supposed to replace the 1991 Start I (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty I), which expires in December this year. >>>



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The White House meeting came also in the middle of a worldwide campaign to reduce nuclear arms as a critical step towards their total abolition, which Japan, the sole country that suffered the consequences of U.S. nuclear bombs in World War II, has been actively promoting.

The appointment of an anti-nuclear Japanese to lead the IAEA is expected to add to Japanese civil society efforts for a world free of nuclear weapons.

The 12 million members of non-governmental organisation Soka Gakkai International (SGI) in 192 countries have embarked on a broad-based campaign for nuclear abolition. 'The People's Decade for Nuclear Abolition' initiative created by SGI aims to rouse public opinion and help create a global grassroots network of people dedicated to abolishing nuclear weapons.

According to SGI president Daisaku Ikeda, "nuclear weapons embody an absolute evil that threatens humankind's right to live."

Another major world campaign for nuclear weapons reductions towards nuclear abolition, called Global Zero, was launched in Paris in December last year by 100 political, military, business, faith and civic leaders cutting across political lines.

Their purpose is to shore up the two major nuclear powers in their declared intention to achieve a comprehensive agreement to eliminate all nuclear weapons worldwide through phased and verified reductions.

Global Zero is developing a step-by-step policy plan for the phased elimination of nuclear weapons, and is committed to building broad-based public support through worldwide media and online communications and civil society organisations.

The initiative's signatories have announced that they will convene a Global Zero World Summit bringing together hundreds of leaders in early 2010, for abolition of what Global Zero campaigner Queen Nour of Jordan calls "the nuclear folly".

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UNITED NATIONS, Aug 14 (IPS) - U.S. President Barack Obama's pledge to take concrete steps towards "a world without nuclear weapons" has garnered overwhelming support from peace activists worldwide.

But at the same time he has given no indication of any similar cutbacks on conventional arms sales - at least judging by rising U.S. weapons exports this year.

"Thus far, the Obama Administration has devoted little attention to U.S. arms sales policy," says Natalie J. Goldring, a senior fellow with the Centre for Peace and Security Studies at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

She says sales of major U.S. weapons systems, including fighter aircraft, missiles, warships and battle tanks, have continued to soar.

In effect, Goldring told IPS, it seems to be "business as usual," as the U.S. predicts unprecedented arms sales in 2009.

According to the Pentagon, U.S. government-to-government sales are expected to exceed an estimated 40 billion dollars by the end of this year compared with 36.4 billion dollars in 2008.

In the early 2000s, the annual average sales were in the region of about 8.0 billion to 13 billion dollars. But in the first half of this year alone, total U.S. weapons sales have hit the 27 billion dollar mark - and are rising. >>>



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The projected sales are mostly to U.S. allies, including Egypt, Israel, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Greece, South Korea, Bahrain, Jordan, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), among others.

"That's good news for weapons contractors, who have historically tried to sell weapons to counteract possible cuts in the military budget," Goldring said.

"But its bad news for those of us who were hoping that the Obama Administration would re-evaluate U.S. arms transfer policy," she added.

Siemon Wezeman, senior researcher in the Arms Transfer Programme at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), one of the world's leading think tanks, says the data given by the Pentagon is slightly unclear.

He said he was not sure if the 40 billion dollar figure refers to real sales or only proposed/requested/possible sales for 2009.

However, having said that, U.S. exports are clearly showing an upward trend, for which there are several reasons, he added.

"Probably the most important is that there are now less producers of advanced larger weaponry than 10-20 years ago, which means that buyers have less options to choose from," Wezeman told IPS.

The U.S., he pointed out, is generally the most advanced producer with a wide range of products and offers basically everything a buyer could wish for - especially in the popular fields of advanced combat and other aircraft, missiles and electronics.

He said there are very few major arms producers around, and the U.S. part of the pie has grown, and is likely to grow even more.

One good example is the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) combat aircraft, for which there is very little tactical alternative and for which contracts have been signed in 2009 - it is possible the U.S. projections included further orders for the JSF in 2009.

The JSF programme is already slated to be the largest - in value - arms export deal ever, and it still has a massive growth potential. It has very little competition globally.

This alone would be enough to keep U.S. exports at a very high level for the coming 20 or more years, Wezeman added.

Also important is that many of the larger traditional U.S. customers in Asia (Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Pakistan, Australia), the Middle East (Saudi Arabia, UAE) and Europe (Turkey, UK) all have recently placed large orders for U.S. equipment or are planning to do so soon.

Despite the financial crisis, Wezeman said, many of these countries are significantly increasing their military budgets and plan orders of the latest military equipment.

He said part of this is because these countries react to a perceived threat - for example, war against 'terrorism', China's ongoing modernisation, North Korea's and Iran's nuclear programmes, or ongoing operations in Afghanistan.

Taiwan alone, for example, is expected to sign arms orders worth several billion dollars this year, after about 8 years of negotiations and low levels of arms imports from the U.S. in previous years.

At the same time, Saudi Arabia has announced plans for over 10 billion dollars worth of U.S. arms, part of which has been or is expected to be signed in 2009-2010.

In addition, the U.S. has entered the huge Indian market - with a few 'appetizers' worth around 2-3 billion dollars. Agreements were signed recently and there are expectations for further orders this year.

The U.S. is also currently the main arms supplier to Iraq (with planned orders for nearly 10 billion dollars, much of which is supposed to be finalized in 2009-2010). >>>

Goldring of Georgetown University said the Obama Administration started slowly in authorising new arms sales, according to Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) data.

During the first five months of the new administration, DSCA notified Congress of a total of eight possible major weapons sales.

The pace soon accelerated, however. In July alone, DSCA notified Congress of an additional eight potential major sales, matching the notifications of the previous five months. And in just the first week of August, DSCA submitted an additional ten notifications to Congress.

"Public statements suggest that Obama Administration officials have already been tempted to use arms sales as a symbol of U.S. friendship and commitment to bilateral and multilateral relationships," Goldring noted.

In the past, U.S. officials also frequently argued that such sales would help countries provide for their own defences.

But U.S. arms sales have often seemed to exacerbate the very threats they were intended to prevent - spurring arms races, intensifying regional rivalries, and increasing the human cost when conflicts occurred - she added.

Instead of allowing the excesses of the past to continue, policy makers should factor in the potential long term negative consequences of these sales.

Goldring said the burden of proof should be on those who want to sell arms, not on those who try to stop the sales.

President Obama seems to understand the destabilising effects of unrestrained sales of small arms and light weapons because he has spoken eloquently of the damage caused by such weapons.

He has already begun working to reverse some of the policies of the former Bush Administration in that area.

"Our national security would be well served by expanding this effort to include the full range of conventional weapons," Goldring said. (END/2009)

POLITICS: Obama to Bolster Nuclear Disarmament at U.N.

By Thalif Deen



UNITED NATIONS, Aug 12 (IPS) - When U.S. President Barack Obama presides over a meeting of world leaders in the Security Council on Sep. 24, he will provide a high profile political platform for two of the most sensitive issues at the United Nations: nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

"This is the time for the Security Council to plan together a route to international security in a nuclear weapons-free world," Jonathan Granoff, president of the Global Security Institute, told IPS.

"We cannot threaten each other with annihilation on Monday and work together sufficiently to meet our shared threats on Tuesday, not knowing whether we will be friends or foes on Wednesday," he added.

Frida Berrigan, senior associate of the Arms and Security Initiative at the New America Foundation, says President Obama, in his historic Apr. 2009 speech in Prague, acknowledged the need for U.S. leadership and initiative on nuclear disarmament.

As the only nation to use nuclear weapons, the U.S. has a moral responsibility to act, Obama said, in the Czech capital.

"We cannot succeed in this endeavour alone, but we can lead it, we can start it," Berrigan added.

Obama's decision to chair a special meeting of the Security Council "is part of that commitment to lead efforts towards nuclear disarmament," Berrigan told IPS. >>>



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Obama is expected to make his maiden appearance at the U.N. when he addresses the global summit on climate change on Sep. 22.

The next day he will address the opening of the high level segment of the 64th sessions of the General Assembly, in the company of Brazilian President Lula da Silva, French President Nicholas Sarkozy and Libyan leader Muammar el Qaddafi (who will also be visiting the U.N. for the first time).

The special session of the Security Council, which is to be chaired by Obama on Sep. 24, will also be attended by political leaders from the 14 other members states - including the other four permanent members of the Council, namely China, Britain, France and Russia.

The 10 non-permanent members in the Security Council, whose heads of state have been invited to participate, include Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Croatia, Libya, Vietnam, Austria, Mexico, Japan, Turkey and Uganda.

A similar session of the Security Council - on the maintenance of international peace and security - was held in Jan. 1992 presided over by then British Prime Minister John Major.

But that meeting "came out with a self-serving statement making proliferation of nuclear weapons a breach of international peace and security and therefore justifying Security Council action, thus absolving the five permanent members - all nuclear weapon states - of any blame for nuclear weapon possession," Jayantha Dhanapala, a former U.N. Under-Secretary- General for Disarmament Affairs, told IPS.

The Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Commission chaired by Hans Blix - on a suggestion by Dhanapala - had proposed a Global Summit on proliferation, disarmament and possible terrorist uses of WMD.

Dhanapala, one of the world's foremost authorities on nuclear disarmament and currently president of Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, said the Security Council - as presently constituted - has a serious legitimacy deficit.

He said a credible Summit could only take place with the involvement of the 192-member General Assembly, and also the participation of those nuclear weapon states outside the Security Council.

"As importantly, the voices of civil society must be heard and so the Security Council must break with past practice and invite Nobel Peace Prize Laureates like Pugwash and others like Dr. Hans Blix to make presentations," he added.

Granoff of the Global Security Institute said the upcoming special session will take place after several days of intense discussion regarding protecting the climate and finding new levels of cooperation to address a shared economic environment.

"In a world where bridges of cooperation must be built to address our shared environmental and economic interdependence, what place do the walls of fear and threat of nuclear weapons play?" he asked.

He said any progress on climate, sustainable development, and economic well being will come undone by the use of nuclear weapons.

"The threat of use will always be there as long as the weapons exist," said Granoff, who is also co-chair of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Nuclear Non- Proliferation.

Steps need to be taken to lessen the threat on the road to elimination, he said.

These include entry into force of the test ban, strengthening verification of cuts and making them irreversible, and quickly coming down to sufficiently low numbers - to affirm that their only value is to prevent them from being used.

"We must build a security system based on the principle of zero nuclear weapons," Granoff stressed.

That means promptly affirming that the first use of a nuclear weapon is crime against humanity and that even any retaliatory use would have to be aimed in such a manner as to not violate international humanitarian law - thus never be aimed at a city. >>>



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This small window of qualified legitimacy to make sure they are not used cannot be leveraged into a doctrine that justifies keeping the weapons, but must be a mere step toward achieving the goal of elimination, said Granoff.

Berrigan of the New America Foundation said she expects President Obama to champion the modest cuts that the U.S. and Russia have agreed upon so far; call for greater cooperation from other Security Council members; reach out in qualified ways to Iran and North Korea; and elaborate on how the work towards nuclear disarmament is not just sensible and overdue, but also contributes to U.S. national security.

"All of this work is worthy of the spotlight, but will need a lot of follow-up in order to be meaningful in its own right," Berrigan said.

Everything cannot be achieved in a single meeting, but even in the realm of symbolism, this is an important shift towards engagement and away from the former Bush Administration's disdainful treatment of the U.N., said Berrigan, who is also a columnist for Foreign Policy in Focus.

Peter Weiss, president of the Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy (LCNP), told IPS: "Here's what I think Obama will do: announce the U.S. support of the renewal of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START); ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT); and negotiation of the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT)."

"And here's what I think he should do, in addition: Announce that, at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in May next year, the U.S. will propose an international conference for the purpose of beginning serious work on a convention outlawing the possession of nuclear weapons and criminalising their use."

Without this second step, Weiss said, the first series of steps will not bring about the nuclear weapons free world which Obama spoke about in Prague.

Granoff said that at the closing session of the 1992 Security Council meeting then U.K. Prime Minister Major included in his statement elements pertinent today: "The members of the Council underline the need for all Member States to fulfil their obligations in relation to arms control and disarmament."

Since then, he said, the obligation to achieve nuclear disarmament pursuant to Article VI of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and the mandate of the unanimous decision of the International Court of Justice remain substantially unfulfilled.

"It is time that the legal mechanisms of the U.N. Charter be followed in this regard," Granoff stressed.

Amongst them, he pointed out, is Article 26 which would task the U.N. Military Staff Committee to submit plans for nuclear disarmament to the Members States. That Section - which requires "maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments - must now be invoked and include nuclear disarmament in its mandate.

This Military Staff Committee is described in Article 47 as including Chiefs of Staff of the five permanent members of the Security Council.

"It is high time that these military leaders be charged with fulfilling their disarmament duties," he added. (END/2009)

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By Taro Ichikawa

TOKYO (IDN-InDepth News Service) - If a world without nuclear weapons is not to remain distant and just a dream, the nuclear haves must demonstrate political will, leadership and flexibility at the landmark Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference slated for May next year in New York.



This was the upshot of discussions joined by some 90 government officials and academics from 21 countries including the United States, China, France, Germany, Japan and the Middle East at the three-day UN conference on disarmament held in Niigata, a city on the northwest coast of Honshu, the largest island of Japan. The gathering was the 21st in a series of conferences hosted by Japan since 1989.

The annual conference is considered an important forum for frank dialogue and exchange of views on pressing security and disarmament-related issues facing the international community. It also addresses the particular disarmament and non-proliferation concerns of countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

The conference, organised by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs through its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, took place less than four weeks in run up to the UN Security Council meeting Sep. 24.

U.S. President Barack Obama will preside over the meeting of world leaders providing a high profile political platform for two of the most sensitive issues at the United Nations: nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

While reaffirming Obama's intention to bring about a nuclear free world, Ambassador Susan Burk, U.S. Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Non-proliferation told participants: "The U.S. cannot do it alone but can take the lead of (other nations)."

Explaining the U.S. strategy, Ambassador Burk said that "the U.S. will lower the military role (of nuclear weapons) by reducing stockpiles" of those weapons and it would request other nuclear states to take similar steps.

Further: "The U.S. will seek to include legally binding verification function in the new agreement which U.S. is currently negotiating with Russia to replace START I. (the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty)." The purpose, she said, was to seek an effective treaty.

Katsuhito Asano, deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary of the Japanese government referred to President Obama's speech in Prague April this year, expressing his resolution to work towards nuclear disarmament and remarked that "a groundswell of nuclear disarmament is arising and it is the time to cooperate".

TRANSLATE THE VISION

"In order to realise a world free of nuclear weapons, both nuclear states and non-nuclear states need to make efforts," said Hannelore Hoppe, director and deputy to the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.

The conference explored ways and means to translate the vision of a nuclear weapon-free world into concrete actions. Such actions include some preliminary steps aimed at significantly reducing nuclear arsenals, enhancing efforts to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) into force, and negotiating a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT),

"The dangers posed by existing nuclear weapons and the risks of the proliferation of such weapons or their acquisition by non-state actors collectively pose the gravest challenges to international peace and security," said Hoppe.

Analysing the current global political situation, Yoriko Kawaguchi, a former Foreign Minister of Japan pointed out that "with the U.S. and Russia entering into negotiation for nuclear reduction, recent circumstances surrounding nuclear disarmament are in stark contrast with the situation several years ago". >>>



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION



Kawaguchi, who co-chairs the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND) expressed the conviction that "we need confidence-building among nuclear weapon states, drafting of law-abiding international rule, and discussions reflecting security circumstances in each region".

In an interview with the Chugoku Shimbun, a Hiroshima based daily newspaper, Libran N. Cabactulan, the Philippines Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, who will preside over NPT Review Conference next year, said: "Political will and leadership are critical to its success." He was happy that "these essential elements have been growing."

Cabactulan welcomed in particular the effort by President Obama for the U.S. ratification of the CTBT. "His enthusiasm is providing momentum for the success of the NPT Review Conference," said Cabactulan.

At the same time, he emphasised the need for advancing discussion on all three pillars of the NPT: disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. He also pointed out that, due to the lack of progress in regard to agreements made at past conferences, "signatories have been feeling some dissatisfaction".

These agreements include the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East as well as the 13 disarmament measures including "an unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon states to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenal".

Besides discussing the prospects of next year's NPT Review Conference, the Niigata conference addressed topics ranging from denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula to the role of the media and civil society organizations in disarmament.

NORTH KOREA

Referring to the ongoing diplomatic effort to achieve a denuclearized Korean peninsula, a Chinese official said there should be a joint effort -- by the US, South Korea, Japan, China and Russia - rather than focusing on China's role.

"China has played and will continue to play its role in achieving the goal," said Jiang Yingfeng, an official from Arms Control and Disarmament Division of China's Foreign Ministry. "But we must acknowledge the importance of the other participating countries, as well as of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's desire to talk directly with the United States."

Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the official name of North Korea.

In a keynote speech, Kanat B. Saudabayev, Kazakhstan's Secretary of State, tasked with nuclear non-proliferation said that "nuclear weapon states must set a role model for renouncing nuclear weapons by reducing nuclear weapons".

Recalling that Kazakhstan was a constituent republic of the Soviet Union, Saudabayev informed participants: "Our country sustained serious damage as a consequence of repeated nuclear experiments during former Soviet era and we have voluntarily begun to move forward on the path toward nuclear abolition. Nuclear weapon states must set a role model by reducing nuclear weapons."

NUCLEAR UMBRELLA

The conference also discussed the issue of 'nuclear umbrella, according to the Japanese Communist Party's newspaper 'The AKAHATA'. Japan enjoys U.S. protection through the U.S. nuclear umbrella.

Former Foreign Minister of Japan and co-chairperson of ICNND Kawaguchi reportedly remarked: "How can Japan and South Korea, who are facing a 'serious threat' from North Korea, lower the role of nuclear umbrella without destabilizing the safety of their own nations?"

Conditions for lifting nuclear deterrence, she said, were the improvement of international security circumstances, and dependence on weapons apart from nuclear weapons. She pleaded for sticking to the "nuclear umbrella" till those conditions were fulfilled. >>>

A civil society representative from New Zealand remarked that "countries should forego the 'nuclear umbrella' by agreeing legally binding 'negative security assurances' that pledge not to nuke non-nuclear states". NATO member countries such as Belgium and Italy were stepping away from the nuclear umbrella just like nuclear free New Zealand, he pointed out.

The city of Niigata -- reportedly considered one of four targets of atom bomb by the U.S. besides Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Kokura -- hosted the conference for the first time. Previous meetings had been held six times in Kyoto, three times in Hiroshima where the first ever nuclear bomb was dropped, two times in Nagasaki and one time each in Sendai, Akita, Kanazawa, Osaka, Yokohama and Saitama.

Akira Shinoda, the city's mayor, expressed satisfaction that in the wake of President Obama having declared nuclear abolition as a national objective, Niigata was the venue of the conference. "It is significant to discuss this subject in Niigata at this time." (IDN-InDepthNews/30.08.09)

RELATED ARTICLES

DISARMAMENT: Stalemate Stalls UN Conference

By Jaya Ramachandran

GENEVA (IDN-InDepthNews Service) - The UN Conference on Disarmament (CD) is faced with a deadlock again, only three months after it ended 12 years of stalemate. The Conference adopted a consensus document on May 29 that contains a work plan in run up to the crucial nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference next year.

The first signs of a deadlock surfaced when Australian Ambassador Caroline Millar (image on the right), chairperson of the conference convened in Geneva, told delegates August 10 that Pakistan had asked that morning for the programme of work to be reopened.



That was seven days after the CD resumed part three of the Conference that is scheduled to conclude on September 18. Part one was convened January 19 to March 27 and part two May 18 to July 3.

The outgoing CD presidency Ambassador Millar expressed disappointment at the deadlock, adding that the document at issue was the result of intense and prolonged consultations. She said reopening the discussion would put in jeopardy some delicate compromises.

"I really would appeal to you all, if we are interested in moving forward and do not look like the same old Conference on Disarmament that actually cannot do anything but process, to see if you can really accept the documents as they stand," she said.

Speaking on behalf of the European Union, whose six-monthly presidency Sweden has, Ambassador Magnus Hellgren said they had all thought that the period of procedural maneuvers to prevent progress on substance was over.

Pakistan's representative Ambassador Zamir Akram responded that his country did not intend to hold up the work of the Conference, but feels that everyone must work on the basis of consensus to protect their own national security interests -- a view he repeated ten days later despite open or indirect criticism not only from the United States, Britain, Russia and China but also, among others, from Morocco, Malaysia and Bangladesh.

As the Conference continued search for consensus on August 20, Ambassador Millar said they had yet to meet the expectations of world leaders as, regrettably, they had yet to adopt a decision on implementation of the programme of work. That was dispiriting, she said.

All understood that important national security interests were at stake. But the place to advance and protect them was in the negotiations, not through delaying implementation of a consensus decision embodied in the May document CD/1864.

➤➤➤



"JUST DO IT"

There should be no doubt: negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT), would happen; and substantive, meaningful work on other agenda items would happen, she said. The overwhelming majority of States believed it was imperative to address serious disarmament and non-proliferation challenges and to do so now. It was up to all of them to ensure that the Conference's potential to do that was realised.

According to the document posted on the Conference website, "most delegations echoed each other's profound disappointment and regret that, nearly three months after the adoption of a programme of work, they had failed to accomplish the "simple, straight-forward procedural task of agreeing on a schedule of work".

One delegation reportedly borrowed the publicity slogan, "just do it" and several joined the cry. Several delegations also highlighted that the place for consideration of national security interests was not in procedural matters, but in the negotiations and discussions to be held.

Document CD/1864 is the adopted programme of work for the Conference on Disarmament's 2009 session. Draft decision CD/1870/Rev.1, on the implementation of CD/1864, outlines the conduct of work and decision-making under the Conference working groups and special coordinators and the rotation and equitable geographic representation of office bearers.

While the next meeting of the CD, the first under the Presidency of Austria, will be announced by the Conference Secretariat, the August 20 session also heard representatives of the Netherlands, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, France, Germany, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

The statement by Moroccan Ambassador Omar Hilale drew particular attention. He noted that, since the conclusion of the Convention on Chemical Weapons in November 1992, the UN Conference on Disarmament had been relegated to the "sidelines" and had been transformed into a "talk shop".

After 13 years of stalemate, on May 29, the Conference had adopted document CD/1863, which set out a programme of work. Although that document only specifically envisaged negotiations on a FMCT, none of its provisions prevented the other working groups from beginning negotiations on nuclear disarmament, the prevention of an arms race in outer space or negative security assurances.

NUCLEAR FREE ZONE MIDDLE EAST

Morocco remained convinced that nuclear disarmament was a strategic priority. A legally binding, verifiable, non-discriminatory treaty prohibiting the production of fissile material for military purposes and providing for the conversion of existing stockpiles would be a crucial step on the long road towards complete nuclear disarmament.

Other stages would be, of course, an international agreement to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use of nuclear weapons and a treaty on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, he said.

Those last mentioned objectives had been strengthened by the momentum created by initiatives and declarations in the sphere of nuclear disarmament such as the declaration by the new United States Administration to deploy efforts to revitalize negotiation on a verifiable FMCT.

Other positive signs were the plan of British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, the initiative of French President Nicolas Sarkozy, and the Russian and Chinese initiative on a treaty to prevent the weaponization of outer space, as well as the positive climate that had prevailed during the work of the Third Preparatory Committee for the NPT Review Conference next year.

In that connection, the international community had to implement the decision of the NPT Review Conference of 1995 for the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. It was also important that all the nuclear installations in the region without exception were subject to the Guarantees System of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Morocco's had spared no effort to work towards disarmament, and Morocco had hosted the launching of the global initiative to fight nuclear terrorism, decided by the then Presidents Bush and Putin on June 15 in Saint Petersburg, on the margins of the G-8 Summit. Of the 13 founding members in Rabat in October 2006, that initiative now had more than 90 members. >>>



Morocco shared the hope that the Conference would once again take up substantive work and restore multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament. It was therefore important to overcome the obstacles to implementing the programme of work of the Conference, in strict compliance with the Rules of Procedure, and to adopt without further delay document CD/1870/Rev.1.

Morocco believed that that document met the criteria established by the members of the Conference regarding the equitable geographical distribution of presidents of the Working Groups and the Special Coordinators, as well as the allocation of time for the different agenda items. Finally, Morocco reaffirmed that the consensus rule was the cornerstone of the Conference's work, and said that any attempt to deviate from that sacrosanct principle put the Conference itself in peril.

DISMAY

Ambassador Azril Abdul Aziz of Malaysia said that his country was dismayed that the Conference had yet to start crucial substantive work. They should not allow the Conference to fall back into the quagmire that had beleaguered it during the past 10 years. Malaysia supported draft decision CD/1870/Rev.1, which it believed contained all the elements needed. It provided clarity and encapsulated much of the understanding that many had to enable the Conference to implement the programme of work. Malaysia called on delegations to remain engaged and to demonstrate flexibility so that they could find consensus.

Ambassador Muhammed Enayet Mowla of Bangladesh said Bangladesh looked forward to an early consensus in the Conference for the beginning of substantive work. The Conference must not fail in taking up its role once again as the sole multilateral forum for disarmament negotiations.

Pakistan Ambassador Akram said that on August 10 he had circulated his country's proposals relative to document CD/1870/Rev.1 in order to convey its views to all members. That was a clear demonstration of Pakistan's constructive approach and its commitment, which remained undiminished.

That remained Pakistan's official stance. Pakistan had remained engaged in discussions with the President, as a demonstration of its flexibility, and had agreed on a number of key issues. Nevertheless a number of issues remained. Pakistan would remain engaged and hoped that they would be able to reach consensus soon on a programme of work.

The Conference on Disarmament was established in 1979 as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, following the first Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD I) of the United Nations General Assembly held in 1978. The Director-General of UNOG is the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament as well as the Personal Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the CD. (IDN-InDepthNews /25.08.09)

OTHER LANGUAGES [Translations | Adaptations]

GERMAN

AFRIKA: Größte atomwaffenfreie Zone der Welt – Uranabbau und Dumping geht weiter

Von Fareed Mahdy

Kairo, 26. August (IPS/IDN*) – Afrika ist seit Kurzem offiziell die größte atomwaffenfreie Zone der Welt mit 53 Staaten und einer runden Milliarde Einwohner. Der jetzt in Kraft getretene Pelindaba-Vertrag, benannt nach einem Nuklearforschungszentrum westlich der südafrikanischen Hauptstadt Pretoria, hat den Status der Atomwaffenfreiheit auf die gesamte südliche Hemisphäre ausgedehnt. Viele Probleme aber bleiben dem schwarzen Kontinent – so etwa der Uranabbau durch westliche und chinesische Konzerne und eine Vielzahl von Atom Mülllagerstätten.

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/German_DISARMAMENT-Africa%20Becomes%20World's%20Largest%20Nuclear%20Free%20Continent%20.pdf

Original Article

DISARMAMENT: Africa Joins the Nuclear-Free Club <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48221>

ÄGYPTEN: Keine US-Nukes im Nahen Osten – Staatschef Mubarak lehnt Schutzschild ab

Von Fareed Mahdy

Kairo, 21. August (IPS/IDN*) – Der ägyptische Staatpräsident Hosni Mubarak steht fest zu der von seinem Land seit 1974 verfolgten Antiatompolitik für den Nahen Osten. Mubarak bekräftigte diese Position vor seinem jüngsten Treffen mit Barack Obama gegenüber der Presse, nach Informationen aus gut informierten Kreisen auch im Gespräch mit dem US-Präsidenten. Er wies damit ein nicht-offizielles, aber im Raum stehendes Angebot zur Ausweitung des US-amerikanischen Nuklearschutzschildes über die nahöstlichen Staaten zurück.

Einen Tag vor seiner Begegnung mit Obama am 18. August in Washington, sagte Mubarak in einem Exklusivinterview mit der ägyptischen Tageszeitung 'Al-Ahram', die Region Nahost brauche keine Nuklearwaffen, sondern "Frieden, Sicherheit, Stabilität und Entwicklung". Mubarak hat sich nicht nur einen Namen als Befürworter einer atomwaffenfreien Zone in der Region Nahost gemacht, sondern legte 1990 auch einen Plan zur Schaffung eines Nahen Ostens auf, der zudem frei von Massenvernichtungswaffen ist.

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/German_DISARMAMENT-Egypt_Rejects_U.S._Nuclear_Umbrella%20.pdf

Original Article

DISARMAMENT: Egypt Rejects U.S. Nuclear Umbrella <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48156>

AUFRÜSTUNG: US-Rüstungsexporte vor Rekordhoch – Ja zu konventionellen Systemen

Von Thalif Deen

New York, 18. August (IPS) – US-Präsident Barack Obama hat von Friedensaktivisten großen Applaus für seine Pläne zur Arbeit an einer Welt ohne Atomwaffen erhalten. Von derselben Seite kommt jetzt Kritik an der offenbar unverändert positiven Einstellung der US-Regierung zu konventionellen Waffensystemen und deren Export. Anlass sind Waffenverkäufe, die in diesem Jahr eine Rekordhöhe erreichen werden.

Soweit hat die Regierung Obama der US-amerikanischen Waffenhandelspolitik wenig Aufmerksamkeit geschenkt, moniert Natalie J. Goldring vom Zentrum für Friedens- und Sicherheitsstudien (CPASS) der Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service an der Georgetown University. Wie sie betont, können die USA 2009 mit enormen Einnahmen aus dem Verkauf von Kampfflugzeugen, -panzern, Kriegsschiffen und anderen konventionellen Systemen rechnen.

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/German_U.S._SAYS_NO_TO_NUKES-YES_TO_CONVENTIONAL_ARMS.pdf

Original Article

DISARMAMENT: U.S. Says No to Nukes, Yes to Conventional Arms <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48095>

ABRÜSTUNG: Obama für nukleare Abrüstung – Großer Auftritt vor der UN

Von Thalif Deen

New York, 17. August (IPS) – Am 24. September wird US-Präsident Barack Obama einen Gipfel der von Staats- und Regierungschefs im Weltsicherheitsrat leiten. Damit rücken zwei der sensibelsten Themen der Vereinten Nationen in den Blickpunkt: nukleare Abrüstung und die Nicht-Weiterverbreitung von Atomwaffen.

Jetzt ist der Zeitpunkt gekommen für den Sicherheitsrat, um gemeinsam eine Marschroute hin zu internationaler Sicherheit in einer atomwaffenfreien Welt

auszuarbeiten, sagt Jonathan Granoff, Chef des Global Security Institute. Wir können uns schließlich nicht am Montag gegenseitig mit der Auslöschung bedrohen und am Dienstag vernünftig zusammenarbeiten, um die gemeinsamen Bedrohungen zu bewältigen. Und das alles, ohne zu wissen, ob wir am Mittwoch Freunde oder Feinde sein werden, fügt er hinzu. http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/German_OBAMA_TO_BOLSTER_NUCLEAR_DISARMAMENT_AT_UN.pdf

Original Article

POLITICS: Obama to Bolster Nuclear Disarmament at U.N. <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48056>

OTHER LANGUAGES [Translations | Adaptations]

SPANISH

ÁFRICA: Libre de armas nucleares

Por Fareed Mahdy*

EL CAIRO, ago (IPS) - África, con 53 países y alrededor de 1.000 millones de habitantes, se convirtió en la mayor zona del mundo sin armas atómicas, lo que tiene un valor agregado por ser una de las regiones que produce más uranio. La Agencia Internacional de Energía Atómica (AIEA) y la Unión Africana (UA) anunciaron a mediados de este mes la entrada en vigor del Tratado de Zona Libre de Armas Nucleares (ZLAN) en África.

El hecho ocurrió tras la ratificación de Burundi el 15 julio, cuando se convirtió en el país número 28 en confirmar el convenio. Argelia y Burkina Faso fueron los primeros signatarios en 1998, dos años después de abierto a la firma. La entrada en vigor del tratado coincide con varias denuncias de explotación de minas de uranio por corporaciones europeas y otras con respaldo de China. Ahora el continente fue oficialmente declarado zona libre de armas nucleares.

<http://domino.ips.org/ips%5Cesp.nsf/vwWebMainView/938806C6CED63D23C125761E0067AD80/?OpenDocument>

Original Article

DISARMAMENT: Africa Joins the Nuclear-Free Club <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48221>

DESARME: Egipto rechaza "paraguas nuclear" de EEUU

Por Fareed Mahdy*

EL CAIRO, 20 ago (IPS) - El fantasma de un escudo nuclear de Estados Unidos para Medio Oriente estuvo en la cumbre entre el presidente Barack Obama y su par egipcio, Hosni Mubarak, celebrada esta semana en la Casa Blanca.

Antes de la primera visita de Mubarak a Washington en cinco años, tanto él como sus asesores habían rechazado rotundamente el ofrecimiento de Estados Unidos de garantizar la defensa de la región contra armas atómicas como parte de un completo plan de paz para Medio Oriente.

Este mecanismo disuasivo llamado "paraguas nuclear" habitualmente se usa para las alianzas de seguridad entre Estados Unidos y estados sin capacidad atómica como Japón, Corea del Sur y buena parte de Europa, Turquía, Canadá y Australia, y se remonta a la Guerra Fría. Para algunos países constituyó una alternativa a la adquisición de armas por sí mismos.

<http://domino.ips.org/ips%5Cesp.nsf/vwWebMainView/9CBD19C5C9C20043C1257618007A088C/?OpenDocument>

Original Article

DISARMAMENT: U.S. Says No to Nukes, Yes to Conventional Arms <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48095>

EEUU: Obama no quiere armas nucleares, pero vende otras

Por Thalif Deen

NUEVA YORK, ago (IPS) - El presidente de Estados Unidos, Barack Obama, prometió tomar medidas concretas para que el mundo sea un lugar sin armas nucleares, pero en sus planes no están incluidas las convencionales, a juzgar por el aumento de las exportaciones registrado este año.

"El gobierno de Obama no le ha prestado mucha atención a la política de Estados Unidos en materia de comercio de armas", señaló Natalie J. Goldring, investigadora del Centro de Estudios de Paz y Seguridad de la Facultad Edmund A. Walsh de Servicio Exterior, de la Universidad de Georgetown.

<http://domino.ips.org/ips%5Cesp.nsf/vwWebMainView/588FD1C54AE6436CC12576130067B54C/?OpenDocument>

Original Article

DISARMAMENT: U.S. Says No to Nukes, Yes to Conventional Arms <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48095>

DESARME: Obama genera expectativas antinucleares

Por Thalif Deen

NUEVA YORK, 13 ago (IPS) - Cuando el 24 de septiembre el presidente de Estados Unidos, Barack Obama, presida una reunión de líderes mundiales en el Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU, ofrecerá una plataforma política de alto perfil para dos temas muy delicados: la no proliferación y el desarme nuclear.

"Éste es el momento para que el Consejo de Seguridad planee en conjunto una ruta hacia la seguridad internacional en un mundo libre de armas nucleares", dijo a IPS Jonathan Granoff, presidente del Instituto de Seguridad Global.

"No podemos amenazarnos entre nosotros con la aniquilación un lunes y trabajar juntos para enfrentar nuestras amenazas en común el martes, sin saber si seremos amigos o enemigos el miércoles", agregó.

<http://domino.ips.org/ips%5Cesp.nsf/vwWebMainView/C8912D93BEBD6726C1257611005662AD/?OpenDocument>

Original Article

POLITICS: Obama to Bolster Nuclear Disarmament at U.N. <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48056>

OTHER LANGUAGES [Translations | Adaptations]

PORTUGUESE

ÁFRICA: livre de armas nucleares

Fareed Nahdy

Cairo, 27/08/2009, (IPS) - A África, com 53 países e cerca de um bilhão de habitantes, se converteu na maior região do mundo sem armas atômicas, o que tem um valor agregado por ser uma das zonas que produz mais urânio.

A Agência Internacional de Energia Atômica (AIEA) e a União Africana (UA) anunciaram em meados deste mês a entrada em vigor do Tratado de Zona Livre de Armas Nucleares (ZLAN) na África. O fato ocorreu após a ratificação por Burundi, no dia 15 de julho, quando se converteu no 28º país a confirmar o convênio. Argélia e Burkina Fasso foram os primeiros signatários em 1998, dois anos após a abertura do período de assinatura.

<http://www.mwgloball.org/ipsbrasil.net/nota.php?idnews=5056>

Original Article

DISARMAMENT: Africa Joins the Nuclear-Free Club <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48221>

EUA: Obama não quer armas nucleares, mas vende outras

Thalif Deen

Nova York, 17/08/2009, (IPS) - O presidente dos Estados Unidos, Barack Obama, prometeu tomar medidas concretas para que o mundo seja um lugar sem armas nucleares, mas em seus planos não estão incluídas as convencionais, a julgar pelo aumento das exportações registrado este ano.

<http://www.mwgloball.org/ipsbrasil.net/nota.php?idnews=5015>

Original Article

DISARMAMENT: U.S. Says No to Nukes, Yes to Conventional Arms <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48095>

DESARMAMENTO: Obama cria expectativas antinucleares

Thalif Deen

Nova York, 14/08/2009, (IPS) - Quando no próximo daí 24 de setembro o presidente dos Estados Unidos, Barack Obama, presidir uma reunião de líderes mundiais no Conselho de Segurança da Organização das Nações Unidas, oferecerá uma plataforma política de alto perfil para dois temas muito delicados: a não proliferação e o desarmamento nuclear. <http://www.mwgloball.org/ipsbrasil.net/nota.php?idnews=5010>

Original Article

POLITICS: Obama to Bolster Nuclear Disarmament at U.N. <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48056>

SWEDISH

Afrika blir största kärnvapenfria regionen

Fareed Mahdy

Kairo, 090827 (IPS) - Afrika, som har några av de mest uranrika områdena i världen, är nu världens största kärnvapenfria region. Men dumpningen av kärnavfall är fortfarande ett stort problem i flera afrikanska länder.

Original Article

DISARMAMENT: Africa Joins the Nuclear-Free Club <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48221>

Amerikansk vapenexport fortsätter att öka

Thalif Deen

New York, 090817 (IPS) - Även om president Barack Obama lovat att USA kommer att ta konkreta steg mot en värld utan kärnvapen finns inget som tyder på en minskning av konventionella vapen – landets vapenexport har ökat kraftigt sedan förra året.

Original Article

DISARMAMENT: U.S. Says No to Nukes, Yes to Conventional Arms <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48095>

OTHER LANGUAGES [Translations | Adaptations]

ARABIC

Original Article

DISARMAMENT: Africa Joins the Nuclear-Free Club <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48221>



وكالة الأنباء العلمية انتر بريس سرفيس (أي بي إس)

نزع السلاح:

أفريقيا، أكبر قارة منزوعة السلاح النووي في العالم

بقلم فريد مهدي /وكالة انتر بريس سرفيس*

القاهرة، أغسطس (IPS) - تحولت أفريقيا، ثاني أكبر قارة في العالم مساحة وتعدادا بعد آسيا، حيث تضم 53 دولة تأتي نحو مليار فردا على مساحة تفوق 30 مليون كيلومترا مربعا، تحولت لتوها إلى أكبر منطقة منزوعة السلاح النووي في الكرة الأرضية، ما يكتسب أهمية خاصة لكونها إحدى كبري الأقاليم المنتجة لليورانيوم في العالم.

فقد أعلنت كل من الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية والإتحاد الأفريقي في منتصف الشهر الجاري، عن بداية سريان "معاهدة بيليندا" التي تجعل من أفريقيا "منطقة خالية من الأسلحة النووية".

وتوج المسار تجاه هذه الغاية بمصادقة بوروندي على المعاهدة في 15 يوليو الماضي. وكانت الجزائر وبوركينا فاسو أولي الدول الأفريقية التي صادقت عليها في عام 1998، أي بعد مجرد عامين على التوقيع عليها. هذا وتنص "معاهدة بيليندا" على إلزام أطرافها بإبرام إتفاقيات أمان شاملة مع الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية، على تلك غرار المنصوص عليها في معاهدة عدم انتشار الأسلحة النووية.

كما تلتزم المعاهدة أطرافها بمراعاة أعلى معايير الأمن، والحماية من المواد والمنشآت والمعدات النووية، لمنع سرقتها وإستخدامها غير المرخص، وحظر شن هجمات مسلحة على منشآت نووية في القارة الأفريقية.

ولقد جرى صياغة المعاهدة في جوهانسبورغ وبيليندا في يونيو عام 1995، وفتحت للتوقيع عليها في أبريل 1996 في القاهرة.

ويشار إلى أن المعاهدة سميت بيليندا نكاية بمركز البحوث النووية القريب من سد هارتبيزبورت غربي برينوريا، في جمهورية جنوب أفريقيا. هذا المركز، الذي تشرف عليه مؤسسة الطاقة النووية لجنوب أفريقيا، كان في السبعينات موقع تطوير وبناء ثم تخزين القنابل الذرية في جنوب أفريقيا.

وصرح مدير عام الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية محمد البرادعي، أن إعلان أفريقيا منطقة خالية من الأسلحة النووية على غرار أمريكا اللاتينية والكاريب، جنوب شرق آسيا، جنوب الهادي، وآسيا الوسطى، يعتبر خطوة هامة على مسار بناء الثقة والأمن، ومن شأنه أن يساهم في جهود تحرير العالم من الأسلحة النووية.

ورحب بدعم المعاهدة "لإستخدام العلوم والتكنولوجيا النووية لأغراض سلمية" وعن ثقته في أن إستخدام التكنولوجيا النووية في أفريقيا سيساهم في تنمية القارة إقتصاديا وإجتماعيا.

ويذكر أن رؤساء الدول والحكومات الأفريقية أطلقوا مبادرة إعلان أفريقيا منطقة خالية من الأسلحة النووية، في قمة منظمة الوحدة الأفريقية في القاهرة في عام 1974، حيث أعلنوا عن إستعدادهم لعدم إنتاج أسلحة نووية أو الحصول عليها، من خلال إتفاقية دولية ترم برعاية الأمم المتحدة.

وإستند القادة الأفارقة إلى الإتفاقيات والمعاهدات الدولية ذات الصلة، ومنها قرار الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة في ديسمبر عام 1975، بإعتبار المناطق الخالية من الأسلحة النووية واحدة من أكثر الوسائل فعالية لحظر إنتشار الأسلحة النووية.

وشددوا علي قناعتهم بضرورة إتخاذ كافة الخطوات اللازمة من أجل تحقيق غاية عالم حر من الأسلحة نووية.

كما أكدوا علي قناعتهم بأن أفريقيا خالية من الأسلحة النووية، تمثل خطوة هامة تجاه تمكين نظام عدم الإنتشار، ودفع عجلة التعاون في الإستخدام السلمي للطاقة النووية، والترويج لنزع السلاح الكامل، وتعزيز السلام والأمن الإقليميين والعالميين.

ومن الجدير بالذكر أن القادة الأفارقة شددوا أيضا علي إيمانهم بأن إخلاء أفريقيا من الأسلحة النووية، سوف يحمي الدول الأفريقية من خطر هجمات نووية علي أراضيها، وكذلك من التلوث الناتج عن النفايات النووية المشعة وغيرها من المواد النووية.

لكنهم شددوا في نفس الوقت علي حتمية مراعاة المادة الرابعة من معاهدة حظر إنتشار الأسلحة النووية، التي تنص علي حق كل الدول الأطراف فيها الثابت، في تطوير بحوث الطاقة النووية وإنتاجها وإستخدامها، دون تمييز، لأغراض سلمية.

كذلك الأمر بالنسبة لحق في تسهيل قدر الإمكان تبادل المعدات والمواد والمعلومات العلمية والتكنولوجية لهذه الأغراض.

هذا وتجدر الإشارة إلي أن أفريقيا تأوي بعض أغني مناجم اليورانيوم في العالم، وأن العديد من الدول الصناعية تعتمد إلي حد بعيد علي المواد الخام الأفريقية عامة، واليورانيوم خاصة. فمثلا، تعتمد فرنسا كاملا علي اليورانيوم المستخرج من النيجر، لتشغيل محطاتها للطاقة النووية، ومجموعها 58 محطة.

وبالإضافة إلي النيجر، تأتي الدول الأفريقية التالية علي قائمة كبار منتجي اليورانيوم في العالم: الجزائر، بوتسوانا، جمهورية أفريقيا الوسطي، الكونغو الديمقراطية، غابون، غامبيا، ملاوي، مالي، المغرب، ناميبيا، تنزانيا، وزامبيا.

لكن أفريقيا تعتبر في الوقت نفسه واحدة من أكبر "مكبات" النفايات المشعة والسامة في العالم، بالإضافة إلي جنوب شرق آسيا. وتردد أن الصومال واحدة من أكبر "مكبات" النفايات النووية، وأن أعمال القرصنة علي صلة بهذا أيضا.

وأخيرا، يشار إلي أن معاهدات مماثلة للمعاهدة الأفريقية سارية في أمريكا الجنوبية، جنوب الهادي، جنوب شرق آسيا، والقطب الجنوبي، وأن معاهدة منطقة آسيا الوسطي التي تضم خمسة من دول الإتحاد السوفيتي السابق وكانت جزء من نظامه النووي، قد دخلت حيز التنفيذ في يوليو الماضي. *بالإشتراك مع Soka و InDepthNews.net (Gakka International).

Original Article

DISARMAMENT: Egypt Rejects U.S. Nuclear Umbrella <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48156>



وكالة الأنباء العلمية انتر بريس سرفيس (أي بي إس)

نزع السلاح:

مصر ترفض إقامة مظلة نووية أمريكية في الشرق الأوسط

بقلم فريد مهدي/وكالة انتر بريس سيرفيس*

القاهرة، أغسطس (IPS) - ألقى مقترح أمريكي بإقامة مظلة نووية في الشرق الأوسط، بظلاله على المباحثات التي أجراها الرئيس المصري حسني مبارك يومي 17 و 18 الجاري في واشنطن، والتي توجت بإجتماعه بالرئيس الأمريكي باراك أوباما.

فأثناء أول زيارة له لواشنطن منذ خمسة أعوام، كرر مبارك علي مسامع كبار المسؤولين الأمريكيين ومن بينهم وزيرية الخارجية هيلاري كلينتون، موقف بلاده من هذا الطرح الأمريكي غير المعطن رسميا، بإقامة مظلة نووية أمريكية لحماية دول الخليج تمتد لتشمل مصر وإسرائيل.

وشدد مبارك علي أن "مصر لن تكون طرفا في مثل هذه المظلة، أولا لأنها تعني قبول تواجد قوات وخبراء أجنبية علي أرضنا وهو ما لا نقبله. وثانيا لأن هذا الطرح ينطوي علي قبول ضممني بوجود قوي نووية إقليمية وهو ما لا نرضاه".

وأكد الرئيس المصري في حديث لجريدة الأهرام أن "الشرق الأوسط ليس في حاجة لقوي نووية لا من جانب إيران أو من جانب إسرائيل. المنطقة في حاجة للسلام والأمن والإستقرار والتنمية".

وشرح أن "مبادرة مصر منذ عام 1974 لإخلاء الشرق الأوسط من السلاح النووي جاءت من هذا المنطلق، وكذلك دعوتي منذ عام 1990 لإعلان الشرق الأوسط منطقة خالية من كافة أسلحة الدمار الشامل".

ومن جانبه، علق المتحدث بإسم رئاسة الجمهورية المصرية سليمان عواد، علي ما تردد عن إقامة مظلة دفاعية لحماية أمن الخليج تشارك فيها مصر، قائلا أن "إثارة هذا الموضوع ليست جديدة، وإنما الجديد فيه هو ما يتعلق بالشرق الأوسط وهو موضوع موجود في السياسة الدفاعية الأمريكية وسياساتها مع حلفائها، وأنها تعرض في هذا التوقيت علي منطقتنا".

ويذكر أن الولايات المتحدة تستخدم نظام المظلات النووية لحماية أمن حلفائها مثل اليابان، كوريا الجنوبية، عدد من الدول الأوروبية، تركيا، كندا، وإستراليا، وذلك منذ سنوات الحرب الباردة مع الإتحاد السوفيتي. كما أعتبر نظام المظلات النووية كبديل عن إقتناء بعض البلدان لأسلحة نووية.

ويشار أيضا إلي أن الرئيس الأمريكي الراحل جون كيندي كان قد عرض علي الهند إثر حربها مع الصين التي تزامنت مع أزمة الصواريخ الكوبية لعام 1962، عرض عليها إقامة مظلة نووية أمريكية لحمايتها من الصين، وهو ما رفضته حكومة نيودلهي لما ينطوي علي ذلك من المساس بسيادتها.

وإستطرد المتحدث قائلا أن مبارك "لم يسمح ولن يسمح بوجود أجنبي علي أرض مصر" تحت أي بند، "لأن ذلك سيستدعي وجود من يقيم مثل هذه المظلة ومن يدرّب علي تشغيلها أو يشرف علي تشغيلها".

وقال أنه "بدلا من الحديث عن مظلة دفاعية، لابد من التعامل مع الملف النووي الإيراني من خلال الحوار والمرونة بين الجانبين الإيراني والغربي - الأمريكي".

وأكد أن "إيران تملك الحق في الاستفادة من الاستخدامات السلمية للطاقة النووية مثلها مثل أي دولة من الدول الموقعة علي معاهدة عدم الانتشار النووي، علي أن تثبت نيتها أن برنامجها النووي هو برنامج سلمي".

ثم شدد علي أنه "في نفس الوقت لابد أن يقترن ذلك ويتزامن مع تحرك جاد تجاه قدرات إسرائيل النووية حتي لا يكون هناك إتهام بالازدواجية في التعامل".

هذا وتحظي المبادرة المصرية بإخلاء الشرق الأوسط من أسلحة الدمار الشامل بما فيها النووي، علي رضاء الدول العربية عامة، كما يتبين من تصريحات أمين عام جامعة الدول العربية عمرو موسى في الخامس من يوليو الماضي، الذي شدد علي ضرورة أن يكون الشرق الأوسط "منطقة خالية من الأسلحة النووية".

هذا ويبدو أن المساندة العربية لهذه المبادرة قد توثقت علي ضوء حملة الولايات المتحدة وأوروبا وإسرائيل، التي تردد أن إيران تتأهب لإنتاج أسلحة نووية.

ويأتي الموقف الغربي هذا علي الرغم من تباين وجهات نظر روسيا والصي معهن، ودحض المدير العام الجديد لوكالة الطاقة الذرية الدولية، الياباني يوكيا أماتو، غير المباشر للمزاعم الغربية. فقد صرح أماتو في 3 يوليو في فيينا إثر انتخابه أنه "لا توجد أي أدلة موثقة علي أن إيران تسعى لاكتساب القدرة علي إنتاج أسلحة نووية".

وبعد هذا التصريح بمجرد يومين، أجاب عمرو موسى في مقابلة مع صحيفة "الأخبار" الكويتية في 5 يوليو، علي سؤال عما إذا كانت إيران تمثل خطرا حقيقيا علي المنطقة، بقوله أنه لا توجد أدلة ثابتة علي برنامج نووي عسكري إيراني. وقال أن إسرائيل هي الدولة الوحيدة التي تحوز أسلحة نووية في المنطقة.

ويذكر أن إسرائيل بدأت في إنتاج أسلحة نووية منذ الستينات، لكن الحكومات التي تعاقبت عليها دأبت علي عدم تأكيد أو تكذيب إمتلاك إسرائيل لأسلحة نووية.

ومع ذلك، صنف معهد إستوكهولم الدولي للسلام، إسرائيل في المرتبة السادسة علي قائمة الدول النووية، بإحتساب إجمالي الرووس النووية المقدر في يناير من هذا العام، بنحو 23.300 في العالم.

وبالتحديد، تعني هذه البيانات أن إسرائيل تحتل المركز الثاني علي قائمة القوي النووية العالمية، فورا بعد مجموعة الخمس دول الأعضاء الدائمة في مجلس الأمن (الولايات المتحدة، روسيا، بريطانيا، فرنسا، الصين). فوفقا لمعلومات معهد إستوكهولم الدولي للسلام، تملك إسرائيل 80 رأسا نووية، ما يفوق الهند (60-70 رأسا) وباكستان (60).

لكن إسرائيل، علي عكس الدول دائمة العضوية في مجلس الأمن، لم توقع علي معاهدة حظر إنتشار الأسلحة النووية لعام 1968. كذلك الأمر بالنسبة للهند وباكستان.

وعن عدد الأسلحة النووية الإسرائيلية، فقد قدرها الرئيس الأمريكي السابق جيمي كارتر بأنها تبلغ "150 أو ما يزيد"، فيما قدرها إتحاد مراقبة الأسلحة الأمريكي بما بين 75 و200 رأسا نووية.

وأخيرا يشار إلي أن العديد من المنظمات غير الحكومية العالمية، قد كثفت حملاتها الدولية للمطالبة بخفض عدد الأسلحة النووية جزريا، كخطوة تجاه إلغائها نهائيا في العالم.

وضمن هذه المنظمات، "سوكا غاكاوي الدولية" اليابانية التي تضم 12 عضوا في مختلف أرجاء الأرض، والتي أطلقت حملة واسعة باسم "عقد الشعوب لإلغاء الأسلحة النووية" الهادفة لتوعية الرأي العام الدولي بمخاطرها، وإقامة شبكة من شعوب العالم ومنظماته المدنية للضغط من أجل إزالتها. *بالإشتراك مع وكالة "إينديبث نيوز" www.indepthnews.net

Original Article

DISARMAMENT: U.S. Says No to Nukes, Yes to Conventional Arms <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48095>



INTER PRESS SERVICE

وكالة الأنباء العلمية انتر بريس سيرفيس (آي بي إس)

نزع السلاح:

أوباما: لا للسلاح النووي، نعم للسلاح التقليدي

بقلم تاليف ديبين/وكالة انتر بريس سيرفيس

الأمم المتحدة، أغسطس (IPS) - قبول تعهد الرئيس الأمريكي باراك أوباما باتخاذ خطوات محددة نحو "عالم دون أسلحة نووية"، بترحيب هائل من قبل دعاة السلام في العالم. لكن أوباما لم يأتي بأدنى مؤشر على نيته خفض مبيعات الأسلحة التقليدية الأمريكية للعالم، وهي التي ارتفعت هذا العام بوتيرة غير مسبوقة.

فصرحت ناتالي غولدرينغ، الباحثة بمركز دراسات السلام والأمن بجامعة جورج تاون الأمريكية، أن "إدارة الرئيس أوباما أعارت حتى الآن قدرا ضئيلا من الإهتمام بسياسة بيع الأسلحة الأمريكية".

وشرحت في حديثها لوكالة انتر بريس سيرفيس أن مبيعات كبري أنظمة السلاح الأمريكي بما فيها المقاتلات والصواريخ والسفن الحربية والدبابات، تسجل الآن ارتفاعا قياسيا.

وقالت الباحثة أنه يبدو أن تصدير السلاح لا يتعدى كونه أمرا إعتياديا بالنسبة لإدارة أوباما، حيث من المتوقع أن تسجل مبيعات الأسلحة الأمريكية حجما لا نظير له هذا العام.

فقدر وزارة الدفاع الأمريكية أن يبلغ إجمالي مبيعات الأسلحة من الحكومة الأمريكية إلي الحكومات الأجنبية، 40 مليار دولار بحلول العام ابحاري، بالمقارنة بمجموع 36,4 مليارا في عام 2008.

ويشير إلي أن مبيعات الأسلحة الأمريكية تراوحت ما بين 8 مليارات دولار و13 مليارات سنويا في أوائل عقد الألفين، لكنها حققت في النصف الأول من العالم الجاري رقما قياسيا بلغ 27 مليارا دولار، وتواصل الارتفاع.

وتتوجه مبيعات الأسلحة الأمريكية أسلسا لطفاء الولايات المتحدة بما فيهم إسرائيل، مصر، باكستان، أفغانستان، تركيا، كوريا الجنوبية، البحرين، الأردن، تايلاند، الإمارات العربية المتحدة، وغيرهم.

كما تعتبر الولايات المتحدة في الوقت الحاضر أكبر مورد للسلاح للعراق (بصادرات مخطط لها بالفعل)، تقارب قيمتها 10 مليارات دولار، ويفترض أن تتم في الفترة (2009-2010).

وتضيف الباحثة الأمريكية أن مبيعات الأسلحة الأمريكية هذه تمثل "أبناء سارة لمنتجي الأسلحة الذين إجتهدوا دائما في الحيلولة دون أي خفض في الميزانيات العسكرية". "لكنها تعتبر خيرا سيئا لنا الذين كنا نأمل أن تعيد إدارة أوباما سياسات بيع السلاح هذه".

وبدوره صرح سيمون ويزيمان، الباحث ببرنامج الأسلحة في معهد إستوكهولم الدولي لبحوث السلام المعروف، أن بيانات وزارة الدفاع الأمريكية يشوها بعض اللبس، فليس من الواضح ما إذا كان مبلغ 40 مليار دولار المقدر لمبيعات السلاح هذه السنة، تمثل مبيعات فعلية أم مقترحة أو ممكنة.

لكنه شرح في حديثه لوكالة انتر بريس سيرفيس، أنه أيا كان الأمر فإن المبيعات الأمريكية من الأسلحة تسير تجاه الارتفاع المتزايد، لعدة أسباب "ربما يكون أهمها هو إنخفاض عدد منتجي العتاد العسكري المتطور بالمقارنة بالبحر أو العشرين سنة السابقة".

وقال أن الولايات المتحدة تعتبر عامة أكثر منتجي الأسلحة تطورا، فهي تقدم لمشتري السلاح تقريبا كل ما يريدونه، خاصة فيما يتعلق بالأسلحة الهجومية والمقاتلات والصواريخ والإلكترونيات، فتحصل علي نصيب لأسد من مبيعات السلاح في العالم، بل ومن المقدر أن تزيد من حصتها.

ومثال علي ذلك، المقاتلة (JSF) التي لا يكاد لا يكون لها بديلا تكتيكيا في العالم والتي تم التعاقد عليها هذا العام ومن غير المستبعد أن تفقد صفقات إضافية عليها هذه السنة.

وتعتبر هذه المقاتلات الآن أكبر بند لتصدير السلاح علي مدي التاريخ، مع إمكانيات أن تسجل مبيعاتها زيادة هائلة تكفي للإبقاء علي صادرات الأسلحة الأمريكية علي مستوي عالي جدا علي مدي العشرين سنة المقبلة إن لم يكن أكثر، وفقا للخبير.

وسبب هام آخر هو أن العديد من كبار مستوردي الأسلحة الأمريكية في آسيا (اليابان، تايوان، كوريا الجنوبية، باكستان، أستراليا)، والشرق الأوسط (المملكة السعودية، الإمارات العربية المتحدة)، وأوروبا (تركيا، بريطانيا)، قد تعاقدوا جميعهم مؤخرا علي شراء كميات ضخمة من العتاد الحربي الأمريكي أو يخططون لذلك قريبا.

ويسطر الخبير قائلا أنه علي الرغم من الأزمة المالية، ترفع الكثير من الدول المذكورة وبصورة ملحوظة، من حجم ميزانياتها العسكرية وتخطط لشراء أكثر العتاد الحربي تطورا.

وشرح أن ذلك يرجع إلي حد ما إلي رد فعل هذه الدول تجاه ما تعتبره تهديدا لها، كالحرب علي "الإرهاب"، وتطور الصين، وبرامج كوريا الشمالية وإيران النووية، أو العمليات العسكرية الجارية في أفغانستان.

وعلي سبيل المثال، من المقدر أن تتعاقد تايوان علي صفقات شراء أسلحة بعدة مليارات دولارات هذا العام، بعد نحو ثمان سنوات من التفاوض، وإنخفاض معدل مشترياتها من السلاح الأمريكي في الأعوام السابقة.

كما أعلنت المملكة العربية السعودية عن خطط لشراء أسلحة أمريكية بما يزيد عن 10 مليارات دولار، يتوقع أن يتم الإتفاق عليها أو علي جزء منها في 2009-2010.

يضاف إلي ذلك أن الولايات المتحدة نجحت في التوغل في الأسواق الهندية، بصفقة مبدئية قدرها مليارين إلي ثلاثة مليارات دولار وفقا للإتفاقيات التي عقدها مؤخرا، ومن المتوقع أن تستورد المزيد من السلاح الأمريكي هذا العام.

فعلقت ناتالي غولدرينغ الباحثة بجامعة جورج تاون الأمريكية، قائلة أن إدارة الرئيس أوباما قد بدأت بالفعل وبصورة تدريجية، في الترخيص لوكالة التعاون في مجال الأمن الدفاعي الأمريكية، ببيع المزيد من الأسلحة.

وأضافت أن "التصريحات العلنية تنبؤ بأن إدارة أوباما تميل إلي إستخدام مبيعات السلاح كرمز للصدقة الأمريكية والإلتزام بالعلاقات الثنائية ومتعددة الأطراف".

وختاما، ذكرت الباحثة أن الولايات المتحدة إعتادت في الماضي علي القول بأن مبيعاتها من الأسلحة تساعد الدول علي تأمين دفاعها. لكنه يبدو أن النتائج كانت عكسية، فقد ساهمت في دفع عجلة سباق التسلح، وتأجيج نيران التنافسات الإقليمية، وزيادة الكلفة الإنسانية في النزاعات المسلحة.

Original Article

POLITICS: Obama to Bolster Nuclear Disarmament at U.N. <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48056>



INTER PRESS SERVICE

وكالة الأنباء العلمية انتر بريس سرفيس (آي بي إس)

نزع السلاح النووي في العالم:
أوباما يتأخر قمة مجلس الأمن لنزع الأسلحة النووية

بقلم تاليف ديبين/وكالة انتر بريس سيرفيس

الأمم المتحدة، أغسطس (IPS) - أكد الرئيس الأمريكي باراك أوباما قرار ترأسه قمة مجلس الأمن الدولي المقرر عقدها في 24 سبتمبر، لمناقشة قضايا حظر إنتشار الأسلحة النووية ونزع السلاح النووي في العالم، ما اعتبر دعماً سياسياً قوياً للمساعي الجارية في هذا الإتجاه.

وصرح جونتانو غرانوف رئيس "معهد الأمن العالمي"، أن "هذا هو التوقيت المناسب لكي يضع مجلس الأمن خارطة طريق لبلوغ هدف تحرير العالم من الأسلحة النووية".

وقال لوكالة انتر بريس سيرفيس "لا يمكننا أن تأتي يوماً لنهدد بعضنا البعض بالفناء، ثم نعمل ثاني يوم سوياً لمواجهة المخاطر المشتركة، نون أن نعرف ما إذا كنا في اليوم الثالث سنكون أصدقاء أم أعداء".

كما صرحت فريدا بيرريغان، المسؤولة بمبادرة السلاح والأمن التابعة لـ "المؤسسة الأمريكية"، أن أوباما قد تناول في خطابه في أبريل الماضي في براغ، الحاجة إلى أن تمسك بلاده بزمام المبادرة والقيادة في مساعي نزع السلاح النووي في العالم.

وقالت لوكالة انتر بريس سيرفيس أن قراره بتأخر قمة مجلس الأمن هذه "يعكس إلتزامه بقيادة جهود نزع السلاح النووي".

هذا ومن المتوقع أن يخاطب الرئيس الأمريكي القمة العالمية بشأن التغيير المناخي المقرر عقدها في الأمم المتحدة في 22 سبتمبر.

وفي اليوم التالي، من المقرر أن يخاطب جلسة افتتاح الدورة 64 للجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة، بالإشتراك مع رئيسي البرازيل إناتيو لولا دا سيلفا، وفرنسا نيكولا ساركوزي، والقائد الليبي معمر القذافي في أول زيارة له للأمم المتحدة.

ويشمل إلى أن جلسة مجلس الأمن الخاصة التي سترأسها أوباما في 24 سبتمبر، من المقرر أن تضمن مشاركة قادة الأربع عشرة دولة الأعضاء، بما فيها الدول دائمة العضوية في المجلس وهي الصين، روسيا، بريطانيا، فرنسا.

أما الدول غير دائمة العضوية في مجلس الأمن، والتي دعي قادتتها للمشاركة في الجلسة الخاصة، فهي بوركينا فاسو، كوستاريكا، كرواتيا، ليبيا، فيتنام، النمسا، المكسيك، اليابان، تركيا، وأوغندا.

ولقد سبق أن عقد مجلس الأمن جلسة مماثلة في يناير 1992، ترأسها رئيس الوزراء البريطاني جون مايجر، لمناقشة قضايا حفظ السلام والأمن في العالم.

لكن تلك الجلسة "خلصت إلى بيان وصف إنتشار الأسلحة النووية بأنه عقبة في وجه السلام والأمن، وبرر دور مجلس الأمن بشأنها، ومن ثم برىء الدول الخمس دائمة العضوية وكلها تحوز أسلحة نووية- من لوم إمتلاكها لها"، وفقاً لتصريح لوكيل الأمين العام للأمم المتحدة السابق لشؤون نزع السلاح، جاينتتا دانابالا لوكالة انتر بريس سيرفيس.

فاقتزحت اللجنة المعنية بأسلحة الدمار الشامل، التي تأسست بمبادرة من دانابالا وترأسها هانز بليكس، عقد مؤتمر قمة عالمي بشأن حظر إنتشار الأسلحة النووية، ونزع السلاح النووي، وخطر وقوع أسلحة دمار شامل في أيادي إرهابيين.

وأكد دانابالا، الذي يعتبر واحدا من أهم الخبراء في قضايا نزع السلاح النووي في العالم، ويترأس حاليا مؤتمرات "بوغواش" المتخصصة في العلوم والشؤون الدولية، أكد أن مجلس الأمن، بتركيبته الحالية، يعاني من عجز كبير في شرعيته.

وشرح أن قمة ذات مصداقية يمكن عقدها فقط بإشراك ال 192 دولة الأعضاء في الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة والدول النووية غير الأعضاء في مجلس الأمن.

وأكد أنه "من الهم بنفس القدر، الإنصات إلى أصوات المجتمع المدني، ودعوة حائزين علي نوبل للسلام مثل "بوغواش"، وغيرهم مثل هانز بليكس، للإدلاء بدلوهم".

كما صرح جونتانو غرانوف رئيس "معهد الأمن العالمي" أن هذه الجلسة الخاصة لمجلس الأمن، تلي فترة طويلة من المناقشات المكثفة عن حماية المناخ وإيجاد مستويات جديدة للتعاون في مواجهة المناخ الإقتصادي المشترك.

وحذر من أن استخدام الأسلحة النووية من شأنه أي يقضي علي كافة الإنجازات التي يمكن تحقيقها في مجالات المناخ، التنمية المستدامة، والرخاء الإقتصادي، "سيظل خطر استخدامه الأسلحة النووية قائما طالما هي موجودة".

وشدد علي ضرورة تقليص خطر استخدام هذه الأسلحة إلي حين إزالتها نهائيا، بخطوات محددة تشمل تنفيذ قرارات عدم إجراء تجارب نووية، وتمتين آليات التحقق من خفضها وبصورة لا رجعة فيها، وخفض عددها إلي أدنى حد وبأسرع وقت، سعيا وراء تحاشي خطر استخدامها.

ونادي "بتأسيس نظام أمن قائم علي مبدأ "صفر" أسلحة نووية"، وإعتبار أول استخدام لها جريمة ضد الإنسانية".

هذا وشرح الخبير أن الجلسة الخاصة لمجلس الأمن في عام 1992 أصدرت بيانا علي لسان رئيسها، يحتوي علي عناصر مازالت سارية المفعول حتي يومنا هذا، ومنها أن "أعضاء المجلس يشددون علي ضرورة وفاء كافة الدول الأعضاء بالتزاماتها في مجال مراقبة الأسلحة ونزع السلاح".

وأوضح أنه من ذلك الحين، لم يتم الوفاء إلي حد كبير بالتزام نزع السلاح النووي عملا بالمادة السادسة من إتفاقية حظر إنتشار الأسلحة النووية، وقرار محكمة العدل الدولية في هذا الشأن. وشدد علي حتمية ضمان تنفيذ القرارات الدولية ذات الصلة.



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POLITICS: Obama to Bolster Nuclear Disarmament at U.N.

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CIVIL SOCIETY'S PERSPECTIVE

Local Priorities vs. National Interests in Arms Control

Published in the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists Online* on August 28, 2009



While beliefs about national sovereignty and international law matter, when it comes to arms control treaties, ideological considerations rarely trump pork-barrel politics. Would a senator from a state dependent on the nuclear weapons complex oppose an arms control treaty not on the basis of ideology, but because the treaty would mean the loss of jobs or funding in their home state? Absolutely.

As such, the Senate could become a stumbling block in President Barack Obama's plans to reduce the U.S. nuclear arsenal and strategic triad of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and strategic bombers. While past treaties such as START I and SORT were approved overwhelmingly by the Senate, those agreements didn't alter the triad's fundamental configuration. Warheads and delivery vehicles were retired, but the constellation of bases and supporting defense contractors, though reduced, remained in place. The force posture being considered by the Obama administration, however, challenges the long-standing status quo and therefore threatens the local interests of many senators.

With a two-thirds Senate majority of 67 votes needed for approval, treaties in the 111th Congress must not only attract support from all 60 caucusing Democratic senators, they must also win affirmation from at least seven Republicans. Based on the guidelines laid out by Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, the upcoming START follow-on shouldn't be hindered by the 67-vote threshold. But what happens after the next round of negotiations, when warhead numbers will really begin to be lowered?

At least 20 states derive significant economic benefits from the U.S. strategic triad. If both senators from all 20 key states adhere to traditional congressional behavior and vote purely on local interest, at least 40 senators could oppose an arms control agreement negotiated by the Obama administration. This total would be enough to derail any treaty in the Senate, especially if senators decide to work together in a 40-vote bloc to protect all three legs of the triad. If these lawmakers were joined by Republicans ideologically opposed to arms control, any treaty would be doomed.

To overcome these political facts of life, there are two things the Obama administration must do. First and foremost, the administration must consult constantly with senators from key states. If senators feel that the White House is legitimately taking their viewpoints into account during treaty negotiations, they are much more likely to support the final product. Second, the administration must relentlessly reiterate that the future of the planet is at stake. The more forcefully President Obama makes the case that nuclear weapon reductions are bigger than any one lawmaker's narrow local interests, the better his chances of winning Senate approval.

Full text: <http://www.thebulletin.org/web-edition/features/local-priorities-vs-national-interests-arms-control>

Image above: A B-2 bomber completes wind-up turns at bank angles of up to 60 degrees (USAF)

Source: http://www.armscontrolcenter.org/policy/nuclearweapons/articles/090109_local_priorities_national_interests/



WHAT OTHERS SAY

A Day to Begin Redemption

By Ramesh Thakur *

Published 6/08/2009 in <http://www.canberratimes.com.au>

Hiroshima holds a special affection in my heart. On August 6, 2002, I had the privilege and responsibility of representing UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the ceremony commemorating the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945.

The commemoration is at once haunting, sombre and soul-cleansing. Some 40,000 people assemble in the sultry heat to recall the searing, dazzling blast that announced the birth of the atomic age with the death of 100,000 people at one stroke and the horror-filled stories of the larger number of survivors.

There is a word in Japanese, hibakusha ("explosion-affected people"), that describes the survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings. Truly, the living envied the dead. As of last year, there were just over a quarter million hibakusha recognised by the Japanese Government. On March 24 this year, the Government officially recognised Tsutomu Yamaguchi as a double survivor. In Hiroshima on a business trip on August 6, 1945, he decided to return home to Nagasaki the day before it too was bombed on August 9. There are times when belief in the Hindu concept of karma (loosely translated as destiny) becomes a comforting solace.

The A-bomb was developed during World War II at the top secret Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico by a group of scientists brought together in the Manhattan Project under the directorship of J. Robert Oppenheimer. (Incidentally, Canada's National Film Board has made an excellent documentary, called *The Strangest Dream*, about the only scientist to resign from the Manhattan Project, the Nobel Peace Laureate and one of the founders of the Pugwash Conference, hence the Canadian interest Joseph Rotblat.)

The bomb's first successful test, Trinity, was carried out on July 16 at the White Sands Missile Range. Witnessing that, Oppenheimer famously recalled the sacred Hindu text, the Bhagvad Gita: "If the radiance of a thousand suns were to burst at once into the sky, that would be like the splendour of the mighty one". Of course, birth and death are symbiotically linked in the cycle of life. So Oppenheimer recalled too the matching verse from the Gita: "Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds".

The same duality is omnipresent in every aspect of Hiroshima. The August 6 ceremony is incredibly moving and indelibly poignant. The cenotaph memorialising the bombing is set in a beautiful peace park that was designed shortly after the war by Kenzo Tange, one of Japan's most famous postwar architects. The names of the atomic bomb victims are inscribed on the arc-shaped cenotaph which stands atop a reflecting pool. Every year on August 6, the living gather there to atone for the dead.

The park is framed at one end by the Atomic Bomb dome (A-dome), a structure that survived the blast in skeleton form and today functions as one of the most iconic and recognisable images of the horrors of atomic weapons and a potent rallying point for the anti-nuclear peace movement. It has been inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. At the other end of the park is the Peace Museum that houses various memorabilia and displays. Again, it is difficult not to be shocked into contemplation of human folly and our capacity to inflict pain on one another by many of the images and items, for example spectacles that fused onto facial bones in the intense heat of the radiation.

For world leaders going to certain countries in Europe, it is obligatory to visit sites like Auschwitz and Buchenwald, pay respects to the victims lest we forget, and offer silent prayers for their souls. I am yet to understand what it is about Western culture that holds leaders back from the same gesture to a common human history when they visit Japan. I was told that no serving US leader had ever visited Hiroshima or Nagasaki. Would such a visit raise unnecessary controversy by suggesting penance? Is it not possible to recognise and honour a defining event in human history without implying guilt? Will the "yes we can" President dare to break the taboo and act on his dream of a world free of nuclear weapons and freed of the nuclear dread? >>>

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BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION



We tend to remember the consequences of what others do to us, and so grievance festers. We know why we did what we did to others, and so that becomes an understandable action, and we are puzzled that the others should still bear a grudge. It is rare to find former enemies join in common atonement of a shared human tragedy.

Yet that surely is what Hiroshima symbolises, and it is in the recognition of our common humanity that we shall find redemption. The citizens of Hiroshima, in rebuilding their city, have consecrated it as a testimonial to social resilience, human solidarity and nuclear abolition.

Then there is the beautiful story of the cranes. Sadako Sasaki, aged two when exposed to the Hiroshima bombing, fell ill in 1954 and was diagnosed to be suffering from leukaemia. Serene in the belief that folding 1000 paper cranes would fulfil her wish for a normal life, she was still short of the magic number (she had the time but not the paper) when she died on October 25, 1955. Friends completed her task and 1000 cranes were buried with her.

As her story spread, a children's peace monument was built in the Peace Park from funds donated from across the country. By now around ten million cranes are offered annually before her monument, where she stands with her arms fully stretched overhead holding up a giant, stylised folded paper crane.

Hiroshima, once again a beautiful, scenic and thriving city, lives by three codes: to forgive and atone, but never to forget; never again; and transformation from a military city to a city of peace. The sacred Buddhist text The Dhammapada tells us:

We are what we think

All that we are arises with our thoughts

With our thoughts we make the world.

Today, as we mark the 64th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, let us join together in turning our thoughts to the three inspiring principles that symbolise death, destruction and resurrection. What we need is a multi-phased roadmap to abolition that prioritises concrete immediate steps in the first couple of years, like introducing more robust firewalls to separate possession from use of nuclear weapons; further significant cuts in existing nuclear arsenals and a freeze on production of fissile materials in the medium term of up to three years; a verifiable and enforceable new international nuclear weapons convention within a target time-frame of about five years; and their total and verified destruction in 10 to 20 years.

By these actions shall we release the souls of the atomic dead, ease the pain of the hibakusha, and liberate ourselves from bondage to a weapon that increases not our net security but does diminish our common humanity. ☑