



IPB News

WWW: Working for a World Without War

International Peace Bureau

January 18th, 2010

IPB Annual Conference - Washington D.C., Nov 14-18, 2009

Representatives of IPB member organisations and other peace movements from 21 countries, as well as individual participants, gathered at Georgetown University in Washington DC on the weekend of November 14-15, 2009 for the annual IPB conference - the first held in the USA since 1904. The conference was followed by the IPB Council, a planning meeting for the nuclear abolition activities at the NPT Review next May, and a day-seminar on military spending. Speeches and/or articles supplied by conference presenters (and photogallery) are available at <http://www.ipb.org> (front page).

IPB's Disarmament for Development programme

In 2005 IPB launched a major new programme, designed to reflect widespread public concern at the rapid rise in global military spending (totalling \$1464 billion in 2008); and the evidence that weapons -- such as small arms, cluster bombs, landmines -- seriously impede sustainable development. Post 9-11, the failure of military solutions should be obvious to all. IPB advocates reductions in defence budgets and the adoption of a 'human security' approach. Activities organised in pursuit of these goals include: seminars, publications, website, e-newsletter, exhibitions and a media programme. National and international networks are gradually being developed.

Military Spending

Obama signs \$636.3 billion defence spending bill

On December 22, 2009, the White House announced that the legislation signed by President Obama provides \$636.3 billion for the U.S. military for the 2010 fiscal year. The amount includes \$128.3 billion for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The additional 30,000 troops that were sent to Afghanistan in December will cost \$30 billion and the request will be submitted in February together with the 2011 fiscal budget. Moreover, the cost of the non-defense spending equalled \$13.3 billion. The legislators also reauthorized parts of the anti-terror USA Patriot Act. The military spending has been supported, apart from a group of Republicans who criticized slow progress related to healthcare legislation. Since the September 11 terrorist attacks, more than \$1 trillion was approved for wars, embassy protection and domestic security, according to the Congressional Research Service. More at http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/cgi-bin/PrintStory.pl?document_id=2010564144&zsection_id=2003905675&slug=defense22&date=20091221

Obama asks for \$33 billion more for war

Barack Obama is planning to ask the Congress for additional \$3 billion in order to continue wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The money is going to be mostly spent on the deployment of the additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan and other war costs. The request will come on top of Obama's plan to increase Pentagon's 2011 budget to a record \$708 billion. The budget for fiscal year 2011 will

be released by the White House in February. However, experts believe the Pentagon will be under lots of pressure due to increasing costs of personnel and healthcare costs.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/americas/2010/01/201011402229686845.html>

Venezuela arms its Colombian border with Russian arms

Russian Information Agency Novosti reports that Venezuela is planning to deploy Russian tanks and combat helicopters along its borders with Colombia. The decision has been made by Hugo Chavez in response to Colombia's deal with the U.S. signed in August 2009. The deal gives the U.S. a broader access to its military bases. In a televised address Chavez said that Russian tanks and combat helicopters will be sent to Barracas to strengthen the infantry. The money used for purchasing the tanks and helicopters comes from the \$2.2 billion loan that Venezuela received from Russia. In the last few years, Venezuela has signed weapon contracts worth \$4 billion. Regional weapon sales in Latin American rose from \$19 billion to \$39.6 billion between 2003 and 2008.

http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2010/01/11/Venezuela-beefs-borders-with-Russian-arms/UPI-91111263251982/

British armed forces likely to decrease in size due to defence cuts

According to a military think tank, it is very likely that the number of British armed forces personnel will be reduced to 140,000 by 2016. The reasons for the predicted cuts are the rising costs of troops and equipment. The Ministry of Defence said that the budgets will not be cut next year, but Professor Malcolm Chalmers, who wrote the report, predicts that the military budget will be reduced by 11% by 2017 and it will see the reduction of 20% in service personnel. The report precedes defence minister Bill Rammell's speech on the future of armed forces.

More at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8455754.stm

Weapons and their impact on development

U.S. to discontinue depleted uranium

It has been revealed that the U.S. is planning to use an alternative to depleted uranium in the production of medium calibre bullets for its army. This significant change will have an impact on the future development of 25 mm and 30 mm rounds used in the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and the A-10 Thunderbolt Aircraft. The latter was responsible for depleted uranium contamination in Iraq and the Balkans. More at <http://www.bandepleteduranium.org/en/a/307.html>

Call for signatures against navy base construction in South Korea

Bruce K. Gagnon, the coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, calls on organisations and individuals to protest against American and South Korean plans to build a navy base in Gangjeong and Jeju Island. The coral reefs around those areas have been named by the UN as key environmental treasures and a navy base built on top of them will most likely lead to their destruction. The American and Korean ships are equipped with missile defense systems and will make Jeju Island, known as a 'peace island', i.e. a military target. The villagers and the mayor of Gangjeong are protesting against the navy base and need support. Bruce Gagnon is preparing a list of organisations and individuals who wish to voice their protest. If you would like to be a part of it, please send your name, group name, and your city/state or country to globalnet@mindspring.com

Clusters coalition 2010 Action Plan

The Cluster Munitions Coalition has published its **2010 Action Plan**, which contains priorities on the road to the 1st Meeting of States Parties, milestones and global/regional campaign plans, activities and the calendar. The Action Plan can be accessed [HERE](#)

Nuclear Disarmament

NPT Peace Walk - Footprints for Peace invite supporters to join (Feb - May 2010)

In anticipation of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (NPT) that will take place in May 2010 in New York, Footprints for Peace is organizing the **International Peace Walk - Towards a Nuclear Free Future**. The walk will begin on February 11th at the Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee and will continue along the route where communities and the environment are affected by the nuclear industry. The walk will end at the UN in New York on May 2nd, when the NPT Conference starts. The participants of the walk include delegations from Europe, Australia, Japan, the U.S., as well as Buddhist monks, artists and everyone who supports the concept of the nuclear free world. The walk is open and anyone can participate in it for any period of time. Individuals or organizations that would like to join the walk are asked to send an email to marcus@footprintsforpeace.net. Another form of support is to sign the petition to the UN at www.footprintsforpeace.net. For more information please see [here](#) [the FLYER](#)

U.S.Nuclear Budget may rise by 10 percent

The U.S. administration is planning to ask the Congress for a 10% rise in the annual U.S. nuclear weapons budget, which means it will equal \$7 billion. The budget includes research, development, maintenance and manufacturing of nuclear weapons. The information was obtained from an internal memo, by the ABQ Journal. The administration declined to comment on the information. <http://baltimorenonviolencecenter.blogspot.com/>

CND welcomes resetting the doomsday clock

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, an IPB member organisation, welcomed a recent decision to move back the hands on the symbolic clock, known as the Doomsday Clock. The clock is controlled by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists and since it was created in 1947 it has been re-set only 19 times. The chair of CND, Kate Hudson, expressed optimism about the change in the US administration's attitude towards nuclear weapons and their reduction. She stressed that for nuclear weapons to be successfully banned, it is essential that Nuclear Weapon States commit to reductions in warhead numbers. She appealed to Great Britain to scrap Trident, which would further move back the hands of the doomsday clock.

More at: <http://www.cnduk.org/> and <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8460324.stm>

Battle over nuclear arms funds

A recent letter from Senate Republicans to the US president suggests that if Obama wants their votes on an arms control treaty with Russia, he will have to spend a significant amount on nuclear weapons research, development and manufacturing. Among the funding requests is the replacement of the Los Alamos research and chemical facility, which will cost \$2 billion. The letter signed by 40 Republicans and independent Joe Lieberman was sent to Obama on December

15th. The letter stresses that the arms control deal needs to be accompanied by modernization of the US nuclear deterrent. In the meantime, the administration is preparing its own overview of the nuclear weapons policy. Experts predict a long battle. More at: <http://www.allbusiness.com/international-relations/weapons-arms-military-weapons/13713951-1.html>

Nuclear Newsletters

Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) has published its excellent electronic newsletter which can be accessed at <http://www.gs institute.org/pnnd/updates/26.html> . Also, British American Security Information Council has issued a very useful bi-weekly update devoted to diplomatic developments related to Iran's nuclear program, which may be found at: www.basicint.org/update/iran.htm .

Other news

Tom Hayden - Peace and Justice Resource Centre

US activist and politician Tom Hayden, who was a keynote speaker at IPB's recent conference in Washington DC, writes on Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Central and Latin America and juvenile justice for TheNation.com, the Huffington Post, Talkingpointsmemo.com, and Dailykos.com. He has appeared in the Boston Globe, LA Times and other newspapers. Tom wrote the September 2009 petition against Afghan War signed by over 5,000 people in its first week. He blogs daily to a personal network of 2,000 activists in key states, and to tens of thousands on partnering websites. He describes the work of his Peace and Justice Resource Center at <http://tomhayden.com>

Cindy Sheehan awarded Peace Prize

The Board of Directors of the US Peace Memorial Foundation has voted unanimously to award Cindy Sheehan its 2009 Peace Prize for extraordinary and innovative antiwar activism. In addition to this high honour, Ms. Sheehan has been designated as a Founding Member of the US Peace Memorial Foundation. See the award at www.USPeaceMemorial.org/PeacePrize. The IPB congratulates Ms. Sheehan on her achievement.

Resources

No Time to Kill by Bruce A. Roth

The book *No Time to Kill* by Bruce A. Roth analyses issues that pose a threat to life and may lead to its extinction. Those issues are WMDs, genocide, nuclear, chemical, and biological terrorism. Roth combines anthropology, psychology, theology, sociology, international law, physical science, politics, and the history of war and weaponry in his analysis. To a large extent, he focuses on weapons of mass destruction and helps a layperson understand how devastating the effects of WMDs are. Please see the flyer or order direct from: bruce@daisyalliance.org or: Bruce A. Roth, Daisy Alliance (IPB member organisation), Suite 830,990 Hammond Drive , Atlanta, Georgia 30328 , USA, Phone: 770-804-5578 - Fax: 770-804-5631- www.daisyalliance.org (new IPB member organisation).

Peace building in Afghanistan video

An organisation called the 3D Security Initiative has published a set of 11 videos titled "Video Tour of Peacebuilding in Afghanistan". The videos show some exemplary peace building initiatives in

Afghanistan.

http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/profiles/blog/show?id=780588%3ABlogPost%3A210897&xgs=1&xg_source=msg_share_post

Report on Dutch arms exports 2008

The Campagne tegen Wapenhandel has put on its website the English translation of its annual report on Dutch arms exports.

Go to: <http://www.stopwapenhandel.org/English/publication/publications.html>

Calendar

Click [here](#) for IPB's international events calendar. For disarmament events, go to the comprehensive Disarmament Calendars of UN and other inter-governmental, grassroots and civil society events in key cities compiled by the [Geneva Forum](#) and by [Reaching Critical Will](#).

If you have reports of activities that are relevant to this newsletter please email them to the Secretariat.

To subscribe to or unsubscribe from this newsletter please email: mailbox@ipb.org

Editor: This newsletter was edited by Marzena Krygier marzena.krygier@ipb.org

International Peace Bureau, 41 Rue de Zurich, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland