

NUKEWATCH PATHFINDER

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Five of the six nuclear weapons opponents arrested May 11th at the Navy's Project ELF submarine transmitter site block the entrance as security officers look on. About 100 demonstrators gathered in a steady rain to pay respect to the original intent of Mothers' Day and to demand a nonviolent response to terrorism. Jeff Leys, Cory Bartholomew, John LaForge and Jane Hosking (l to r) have all served lengthy jail terms for previous ELF actions. Judy Miner (far right), a registered nurse from Madison, and John Bachman (not pictured), an attorney and vegetable farmer from Eau Claire, were first-time line crossers. All face federal charges in Madison.

INSIDE:

- 1- Project ELF Update;
Mass Internment Revisited
- 2 - Yucca Mt. Transportation & Vote
- 3 - Nuclear Shorts
- 4 & 5 - Nuclear Posture Review
- 6 & 7 - Davis-Besse & Dimona;
Activist Calendar
- 8 - Depleted Uranium Update

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Making a Federal Case, Resisting Project ELF

Six more arrested during Mothers' Day protest at ELF

Six people earned federal citations for trespassing at Project ELF May 10, including long-time defense attorney John Bachman of Eau Claire, Wisc. After Bill Durland of Colorado, Bachman is only the second attorney arrested for resisting the "Trident trigger" system run by the nuclear Navy.

Over 100 anti-war activists braved rain and wind to rally on Mothers' Day weekend against the giant one-way bell-ringer for submarine-launched warfare.

Bachman has for years advised and defended nuclear weapons opponents and anti-mining activists in state and federal courts in Wisconsin. He represented Michael Sprong for his part in the Silence Trident disarmament action.

The six sat on the entrance road during the rainy protest while Forest Service wardens decided how much pain to inflict on Cory Bartholomew, who initially refused to quit the sit-in. After several minutes of pain-compliance applied by police to his wrist and neck, Cory agreed to end his noncooperation at the request of another protester.

The six are charged with federal misdemeanors and face a maximum of six months in prison and/or a \$5,000 fine. Arraignment is scheduled for late June in Madison. The arrests raise the number of federal trespass citations issued at the site to 15 since the local Ashland County district attorney gave up prosecuting ELF cases last Sept. 25.

Appeals court affirms convictions of "Silence Trident" plowshares activists

A three-judge panel of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has affirmed the convictions of Bonnie Urfer and Michael Sprong for their "Silence Trident" plowshares action. Bonnie and Michael used handsaws in June 2000 to topple three of the several thousand heavy poles that hold up the antenna for the Navy's ELF (extremely low frequency) submarine transmitter.

At their February 2001 trial in Madison, Bonnie and Michael relied on an "advice of counsel" defense. While the two activists have long suspected that nuclear war systems are illegal, they argued at trial that advice from an attorney finally convinced them that actually disarming one would be legal.

The Appeals Court said, "The jury, apparently not believing that the defendants had 'acted in honest ignorance of their legal duties,' convicted them."

Bonnie and Michael relied on the advice of attorney Anabel Dwyer, an instructor of human rights law in Lansing, Michigan. Like other contraband -- which, Dwyer explained, can be legally destroyed by anyone -- Trident and ELF constitute outlawed weapons under domestic, military and humanitarian law (like nerve gas, land mines, or poison).

Dwyer intended to testify at trial that first-strike nuclear weapons systems -- the Trident fleet and its ELF trigger -- constitute an on-going criminal conspiracy to commit war crimes and crimes against humanity. Dwyer wanted to explain that federal statutes, U.S. Armed Service Manuals, and binding treaties prohibit any planning of, or participation in, indiscriminate destruction, mass murder, genocide or the use of weapons that cause long-term environmental damage. However, Dwyer's testimony was severely limited by Magistrate Judge Stephen Crocker's orders -- orders that made the defense appear incoherent -- and the rulings left the jury hopelessly confused.

The jury was instructed by Crocker that it could consider the "reasonableness" of the advice given by Dwyer. But it was not allowed to hear expert testimony as to the reasonableness of that advice. All the jury heard regarding the validity of the advice was the federal prosecutor's ridicule about "lawyer shopping" and hyperbole about "patriotism," "democracy" and "common sense."

The Appeals Court found that "No advice of counsel instruction should have been given. There is no such thing as an 'advice of counsel' defense." This statement was an eye-opening contradiction of trial Judge Crocker's blanket ruling that "advice of counsel is always a defense."

Defense Attorney Kary Love, of Holland, Mich., who also represented Michael Sprong, said of the appeal decision, "Of course the Court of Appeals ignored most of the cogent parts of the argument, as they must."

Love was referring to the fact that the argument on appeal was not whether the advice of counsel was itself reasonable, but whether the jury should have heard evidence of reasonableness. Sadly, the question of whether this exclusion of evidence was proper went unanswered by the panel.

The Appeals Court said, "The only part of the excluded evidence that was clearly related to the charges was the part that concerned international law..." But the Court said the exclusion was proper.

The heart of the disarmament action -- that citizens have a duty to resist government criminality -- was obviously understood by the Appeals panel. The Appeals Court explained that Bonnie and Michael, "... fastened literature denouncing nuclear-armed submarines on the poles and spray-painted 'Nuremberg' on one of them, a reference to the fact that the

Nuremberg Tribunal punished transgressions of international law by Germans who were acting in conformity with domestic law."

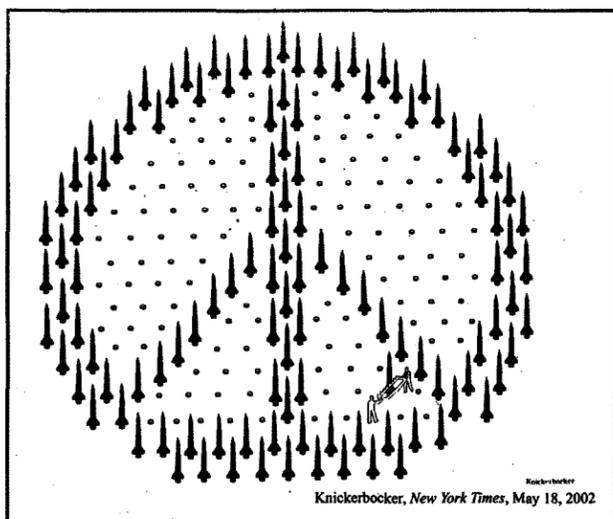
But the panel rejected the lessons of Nuremberg and found, "Even if it were contrary to international law for a nation to possess nuclear weapons, domestic law could properly and does make it a crime 'to correct a violation of international law by destroying government property.'"

Bonnie Urfer finishes last five months for "Silence Trident" plowshares

Bonnie Urfer returned home to Anathoth Community Farm and Nukewatch May 31, after completing a five-month sentence imposed in January for refusal to pay more than \$7,000 in restitution to the Navy. The five-months -- in the Greenville, Ill. women's federal prison camp -- were in addition to six she served in the Summer of 2001 for "Silence Trident" -- the fifth disarmament action against ELF. For his part, Michael Sprong was sentenced to two months but has yet to be penalized for nonpayment of restitution.

Mothers' Day ELF trespassers sentenced in federal court

The first nuclear resisters convicted of federal trespass at the ELF site were sentenced April 12 in Madison. Roberta



Thurstin, Don Timmerman and John Heid were all fined by U.S. Magistrate Stephen Crocker, who said he was sure he'd "be seeing more ELF protest defendants in the future."

Heid, who explained that he would not pay fines or cooperate with probation, was fined \$500 and Crocker set August 22 for re-sentencing. (John may well miss the date because he is heading to Georgia for a July trespass trial stemming from protests at the U.S. Army School of Assassins.)

Roberta and Don were each fined \$100, given one year of probation and told to do 50 hours of community service. The Magistrate allowed that when the community service was complete the probation would be lifted.

The sentences left unanswered the question of what resisters can expect for refusing to pay trespass fines.

Commentary

A Regrettable Replay of Mass Internment

By John LaForge

Walking along Louisiana Ave. near Union Station in Washington, DC, I came across a group of Japanese Americans huddled near a small open-air monument, the National Japanese American Memorial. It isn't on any DC tour maps provided by airports. I'm embarrassed to say I wasn't aware it existed.

The monument is a grim reminder of the arrest and imprisonment without cause of 120,000 Japanese American civilians across the United States during WW II, a formal, permanent and unambiguous admission of wrong-doing by the U.S. Government.

Inscribed on a low granite wall are President Reagan's words: "Here We Admit A Wrong. Here We Affirm Our Commitment As A Nation To Equal Justice Under The Law."

Inscribed here -- carved in stone -- is this pledge from Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, a former Army Captain: "The Lessons Learned Must Remain As A Grave Reminder Of What We Must Not Allow To Happen Again To Any Group."

The innocents were rounded up and their property confiscated, stolen or destroyed, never to be returned. Many had sons in the military fighting against fascism in Germany and Italy. Whole families were "interned" without the benefit of charges, defense counsel, trial, or the right of appeal. Does this reaction sound familiar?

The memorial says that in all, 120,313 people were under War Relocation Authority control: 90,491 were transferred from "assembly centers;" 17,491 were taken directly from their homes; 5,918 were born to imprisoned parents.

Another section explains, "With the outbreak of war on December 7, 1941, local authorities and the FBI began to round up the Issei [first generation Japanese immigrant] leadership of the Japanese American communities in Hawaii and on the mainland. Caught by surprise for the most part, these men were not held under formal charges and family members were forbidden from seeing them. Most spent the war years in enemy alien internment camps run by the Justice Department." Have we heard this before?

"Allowed only what they could carry, families were forced to abandon homes, friends, farms and businesses to live in ten remote relocation centers guarded by armed troops and surrounded by barbed wire fences for three years or more. In addition, 4,500 were arrested by the Justice Department and held in internment camps, such as Sante Fe, New Mexico and the family camp in Crystal City, Texas where 2,500 were held."

Today, between 1,200 and 2,000 detainees arrested after Sept. 11, remain jailed in secret. Justice Department lawyers still refuse to issue a list of those incarcerated or even give an accounting of the number. The department argues that "national security interest" outweighs the public's right to know who is being kept in jail, why, and for how long.

Hussein Ibish of the Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee told Reuters, "We have absolutely no idea how many they have behind bars and neither does anybody else because the government simply will not tell us."

Attorney General John Ashcroft has said the list is "too sensitive for public scrutiny." Why's that? James Zogby, presi-

dent of the Arab American Institute says the detained individuals now include asylum seekers, and even women and children who have fled persecution in the Middle East.

Ashcroft announced on June 4 his plans to photograph and fingerprint all male visitors from Saudi Arabia, Libya, Iraq, Sudan, Pakistan and Iran. If approved, more than 100,000 current visitors would be ordered to register with the police. Violators could be fined, refused re-entry or deported -- and deportation delays can now mean months or years in jail.

Critics are outraged by Ashcroft's racist xenophobia. The Council on American Islamic Relations denounced the proposal, saying all the men so identified "might as well be forced to wear a Star of David." Zogby said, "This is targeting a group of people the overwhelming majority of whom are innocent, but whose lives will be turned upside down."

The Justice Department holds secret immigration hearings, conceals the identities of the detainees, listens to their conversations with their lawyers (if they're allowed one), and for those men being kept in cages on Cuba, trial and conviction can be done in secret, and they can be executed without appeal to a higher court. (Castro, attacked by Bush over human rights, can be forgiven for smirking.)

Several lawsuits have been filed on behalf of the detainees demanding names and an end to secret immigration hearings. "In every case heard in the last few months," the *New York Times* reports, "federal and state district judges in New York, New Jersey and Michigan have ruled against the government and in favor of disclosure."

Civil rights lawyers have sued Ashcroft alleging "widespread abuse of hundreds of Middle Eastern men detained on immigration violations after Sept. 11." They cite the case of Asif-ur-Rehman Saffi of Pakistan, who was arrested at New York's La Guardia airport Sept. 30, after his tourist visa expired. In what the *Washington Post* called a "controversial and secretive dragnet," hundreds of immigrants jailed after Sept. 11 have been confined for months before being charged with immigration violations.

An immigration judge ordered Saffi deported, but he was jailed for seven months (until March) and kept in an isolation unit. The suit alleges that guards beat him "to the point of unconsciousness."

Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) visited the Krome immigrant detention center near Miami and found it astonishing that "...the Immigration and Naturalization Service is fixated on detaining and rounding up countless Arab-Americans without any justification ..."

The government has been here before. In 1983, a federal commission found that there had been "no military necessity for the mass imprisonment of the Japanese Americans and that a grave injustice had been done."

But wartime -- real, or conjured by propagandists -- grants permission, it seems, for whole populations to deny their history, especially if the lessons are ugly and the crimes were committed by our own government.

The National Japanese American Memorial is located just north of the Capitol on a triangular plot bounded by Louisiana Ave., New Jersey Ave. and D Street NW. Contact the National Japanese Memorial Foundation, Washington, DC, (202) 861-8845; www.njamf.com .

Mobile Chernobyl & Yucca Mt.

Call it the *Edmund Fitzgerald Plan* or *Chernobyl Valdez Roulette*. If the Department of Energy (DOE) gets its way, thousands of shipments from 17 nuclear power reactors would be barged through 15 commercial ports over 38 years.

By Doug Hissom

It appears that a Great Lakes dichotomy is coming from the Bush administration of late. While one arm of the White House says it wants to make the Great Lakes "great" again, another is promoting the threatening notion of hauling nuclear waste across Lake Michigan.

In April, Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Christie Todd Whitman announced what would appear to be a wonderful plan to continue to restore the health of the Great Lakes, the largest source of fresh water on the planet. Thirty million people get their drinking water from the Great Lakes. The plan involves an effort to rid the lakes of non-native species that threaten native ones and puts more funding toward pollution cleanup.

The Environmental Protection Agency wants to:

- * Reduce the concentration of PCBs in lake trout and walleye by 25% by 2007;



A barge rammed a pylon under Interstate 40 in Oklahoma May 26, sending cars and trucks into the Arkansas River. Unless the Senate votes to halt "Mobile Chernobyl" the DOE plans to begin 108,000 barge, train and truck shipments of high-level radioactive waste through 43 states. DOE waste casks are required to survive a 30-foot drop and then last only one hour in 600 feet of water.

- * Sharply cut any further introduction of non-native species into the basin;

- * Clean up 31 polluted harbors, including Milwaukee, Sheboygan and Green Bay; and

- * Improve coastal waters so that at least 90% of the beaches can be open for a minimum of 95% of the summer season, a major improvement from the current situation.

But before the corks could be popped, it was discovered that the Bush Administration's DOE was proposing that barges laden with nuclear waste from reactors along Lake Michigan be shipped to Milwaukee and unloaded onto railroad cars for transport to Nevada's Yucca Mountain.

Under the plan, thousands of shipments could be barged from 17 nuclear reactors through 15 commercial ports during a 38-year shipping campaign. A total of 21,572 tons of nuclear waste -- about 19% of the commercial power reactor total -- would head to Yucca Mountain. On Lake Michigan, waste would come from Kewaunee and Point Beach in Wisconsin and the Palisades Power reactor in Michigan, and would be sent to Milwaukee and Muskegon in 453 shipments. From there, it would be carted by rail to Nevada.

Opponents say the barge idea should be sunk immediately. Beside the ease of a terrorist attack on a slow-moving barge over the fresh water supply for millions -- or when it sits in a port while loading a train -- there's also the possibility of an accident. Any radioactive release from waste barges would contaminate drinking water for millions of [Great Lakes] residents for thousands of years.

Despite the scary notion of hauling radioactive waste across the world's largest fresh water supply, the Yucca Mt. plan is not far from being approved. The Yucca Mt. site has been studied for 20 years at a cost of \$4 billion in an effort by the government to find a depository for the nation's radioactive waste. The waste is now stored "temporarily" in [cooling] pools, concrete casks and other devices at 131 sites in 39 states throughout the country. The DOE now says categorically that "sound science" proves Yucca safe.

The DOE says Yucca Mt. is a geologically stable site, positioned in a closed groundwater basin, isolated on federally controlled land, housed approximately 1,000 feet underground, and located farther from any metropolitan area than the great majority of less secure, temporary nuclear waste



Source: DOE Final Environmental Impact Statement

storage sites that exist today.

Opponents of the site, including area Indian tribes, say a fault line runs way too close to the mountain, threatening its stability. DOE says engineering and design can overcome any concerns. The repository is supposed to have a 10,000-year regulatory life. Public Citizen in Washington points out that the mountain is criss-crossed by 33 earthquake faults.

Is Yucca safe? John LaForge of Nukewatch offers a seven-point primer on why Yucca cannot be used:

- * In 1999, zircon crystals found deep inside the mountain proved that the site is periodically flooded. Crystals do not form without complete immersion in water.

- * In 1998, the Yucca site was found to be subject to earthquakes and lava flows 10 times more frequently than earlier estimated. This finding means radiation dispersal from the site is much more likely during the proposed 10,000-year lifetime of the dump -- not to mention the million-year-long radioactive hazard period.

- * In 1997, the DOE's own researchers announced that rainwater had seeped 800 feet into the repository in a mere 40 years. The government had earlier claimed that it would take water hundreds or thousands of years to reach the waste, and guidelines have long held that fast-flowing water would disqualify the site.

- * In 1995, a Los Alamos National Laboratory report dropped a bomb on the Yucca plan by charging that after the waste containers dissolve, the wastes might erupt in a fission explosion, scattering radioactivity to the winds or into groundwater, or both.

- * In 1990, the National Research Council said the DOE's plan for Yucca is "bound to fail" because it is "a scientific impossibility" to build an underground nuclear waste dump that will be safe for 10,000 years.

Rad Medicine Truck Crash

VALLEY CITY, Ohio -- A head-on truck crash June 4 smashed open several canisters carrying syringes of liquid technetium-99m (Tc-99m), an isotope injected into patients for diagnostic brain, bone, heart and kidney scans. The driver carrying the technetium for Syncor International, Inc. caused the crash.

There are discrepancies in reports of the "spill." Frank Alto, a so-called nuclear pharmacist for Syncor, said "most" of the 23 canisters survived the impact of the crash, "some" were smashed open, and "three or four" syringes were thrown onto the ground. The watchdog group Citizen Alert said, "23 lead-lined boxes exploded...."

Emergency response teams used Geiger counters to try to track down radioactivity. Alto said, "none of the radioactive material had leaked into the ground," leaving unanswered the question of whether any liquid technetium had spilled.

The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* reported that "Syncor workers gathered the material wearing only surgical gloves and lab coats," while the AP said, "workers wearing protective garb" checked the 23 containers.

Syncor's Mr. Alto said, "The material has a radioactive half-life of about six hours and totally dissipates within 24 hours." He should have said 60 hours, but more importantly, Tc-99m (the "m" is for "metastable") decays to Tc-99 -- which has a half-life of 213,000 years.

Tc-99m decays by emitting gamma radiation. Gamma rays are identical to high energy X-rays and "pack a wallop," traveling in straight lines, knocking loose electrons, causing ionization, and leaving ionized particles in their wake. No radiation remains in the body after an X-ray. However, the damage it may have caused on the way through remains.

About 25 people exposed to the Tc-99m were checked with a Geiger counter and told they were free of contamination. However, because gamma rays can pass through the body, the check was inappropriate and unable to register potential chromosome and cell damage.

- * In 1989, 16 members of the U.S. Geologic Survey charged that the DOE was deliberately preventing the discovery of problems that would disqualify the site. They reported that "there is no facility for trial and error, for genuine research, for innovation or for creativity." Even the Nuclear Regulatory Commission complained that work at the site seemed designed to get the repository built rather than to determine if the area is suitable.

- * In 1983, the National Academy of Sciences reported that chemical characteristics of water at Yucca Mountain are such that nuclear wastes would dissolve more easily than at most other places.

The full Senate will vote in July on whether to uphold or over-ride the veto of the plan issued by Nevada's governor.

Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act in 1982, arguing that the best option for high-level radioactive waste disposal would be a deep underground repository. In 1987, Congress directed the Secretary of Energy to investigate and recommend to the president whether the repository could be located at Yucca Mountain, Nev., after nine other sites were rejected.

Doug Hissom is editor of Milwaukee's weekly *Shepherd Express*, where this article appeared May 9, 2002.

Nuclear Industry Plied Congress with \$30 Million

The nuclear industry gave nearly \$30 million to federal lawmakers in the last decade, according to a report by the public interest group Common Cause.

The group decried the \$28.6 million in soft-money donations made by the Nuclear Energy Institute's 260 corporate members and their executives. Congress is currently deciding the fate of the Yucca Mt. project and radioactive waste producers have urged congress to rubber-stamp the plan.

"How can anyone anywhere be expected to believe that Yucca Mt. is being driven by the public interest, and not the special interest, with so much money changing hands?" asked Common Cause's Andy Draheim.

NEI is the top lobby group of the nuclear reactor operators and other nuclear waste generators. Sixty-three percent of NEI's soft-money contributions went to Republicans, according to the report. NEI's political action committee donated another \$643,202 and spent \$10.8 million on lobbying, the report said.

NEI spokesman Mitch Singer told the *Las Vegas Sun*, "The last time I checked this was a democracy. We do (give soft money) The system operates this way."

The payoffs paid off June 5, 2002, when the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee voted 13-to-10 in favor of Yucca. Republicans voted 10-to-1 for the scheme.

Help Stop the Yucca Mt. Plan

The full Senate will vote this July on the Yucca Mt. proposal. Please urge your Senators to oppose the scheme by calling the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121, or toll free via the AFL-CIO hotline at (800) 718-1008.

For more information about Yucca Mt., visit <www.atomicroadshow.org>

Please help stop this reckless project by endorsing the statement (below). Organizations only, please.

Sign on to Group Statement Opposing Yucca Mt.

"Transporting 77,000 tons of high-level nuclear waste to a dump site at Yucca Mountain that cannot meet basic safety standards poses unacceptable threats to human health and the environment.

"Important scientific, ethical, environmental justice, and policy questions about the repository proposal remain unresolved, as identified in part by independent federal review agencies. The DOE has not developed a credible transportation plan. The risks of shipping highly radioactive waste through 44 states to a questionable site, as currently proposed, cannot be justified.

"We therefore oppose the Department of Energy's premature and technically unfounded Yucca Mountain recommendation."

Visit <www.yuccastatement.org> to endorse this statement.

NUCLEAR SHORTS

Why Food Irradiation? You Don't Want to Know

"Most of these efforts are reactive: it's accepted that the animals will enter the kill floor caked with feedlot manure that has been rendered lethal by the feedlot diet. Rather than try to alter that diet or keep the animals from living in their own waste or slow the line speed -- all changes regarded as impractical -- the industry focuses on disinfecting the manure that will inevitably find its way into the meat. This is the purpose of irradiation (which the industry prefers to call "cold pasteurization"). It is also the reason that carcasses pass through a hot steam cabinet and get sprayed with an antimicrobial solution before being hung in the cooler at the National Beef plant."

-- *New York Times Sunday Magazine*, March 31, 2002.

Rename it and They Will Come

WASHINGTON, DC -- After sales of properly labeled irradiated hamburger flopped in Florida and Wisconsin, Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) was successful in an 11th-hour attempt to hoodwink meat eaters. As reported in the Spring 2002 *Pathfinder*, Harkin added a 396-page amendment to the Farm Bill that allows irradiated foods to be mislabeled as "pasteurized." Corporations seeking to use the "pasteurized" label would only have to apply for permission from former Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson, the Republican Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). If HHS doesn't respond within 120 days, permission is automatically granted. Moreover, the Harkin-inspired amendment directs HHS to revisit all existing irradiation requirements, with no provision for public input. The new law also permits the National School Lunch Program to serve irradiated meat without consulting or even informing the children or their parents.

-- *Wild Matters* (formerly *Food & Water Journal*), June 2002.

Irradiation's Uninformed Consumers

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. -- Patrons may not know it, but the only ground beef served at Gluek's Restaurant & Bar downtown, and at Excel Energy Center suites during Minnesota Wild hockey games, is irradiated. The FDA requires labeling of irradiated meat sold to consumers or restaurants, but restaurants don't have to inform customers.

Edina, Minn.-based Dairy Queen has started test marketing the meat at its Hutchinson and Spicer, Minn. stores. DQ brochures on irradiation produced by SureBeam -- the Titan Corp. subsidiary doing the irradiation -- are available, but an April phone survey found that only a third of customers knew DQ's burgers were irradiated. Several consumers were also misinformed about irradiation's purpose and safety.

"If we cook ground beef well done and then put it in the suites (for hockey games), it becomes a pitiful product," Wildside Caterers' Mike Harper told the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*. With irradiated ground beef, "we don't have to cook it to death." The dangerous notion that irradiated meat doesn't need to be cooked well done was also implied by the news reporter who said irradiation, "gives many consumers confidence that the burgers they cook medium rare on the backyard grill won't make them sick, and that the burgers slung by a teenage cook at a fast-food joint are safe."

On the contrary, irradiators themselves suggest that all irradiated meat be heated to 140 to 160 degrees -- because of bacteria that survive irradiation and recontamination from handling or meat-mixing that occurs after irradiation.

-- Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, April 14, 2002; "Food Irradiation: An Activist Primer," 2nd Ed., Food & Water, Inc., 2000.

Chernobyl Legacy

KIEV, Ukraine -- On the 16th anniversary of the April 26 Chernobyl nuclear reactor catastrophe, a Ukrainian scientist monitoring the site warned that levels of radiation around the wrecked reactor are rising. Dmytro Hrodzynskyy, who heads Ukraine's Commission on Radiation Security, said the concrete sarcophagus -- placed over the reactor's remains to contain radiation -- is failing. "There is more than one kilometer of holes and cracks there. Fuel is starting to heat up inside the ruined reactor and radioactive dust is escaping," he warned. Hrodzynskyy reported to *Izvestia* that 24% of babies now born near Chernobyl have birth defects, and thyroid cancer in local children is now 1,000 times more likely than before the disaster. One year ago, Israeli and Ukrainian researchers reported that DNA mutations in children, born to victims of Chernobyl subjected to high levels of radiation, were 600% higher than offspring whose parents were not exposed to radiation.

-- Milwaukee *Journal Sentinel*, May 6, 2002 and May 14, 2001.

Nevada Rejects Mushroom Cloud License Plate

LAS VEGAS -- A license plate design featuring an atomic mushroom cloud was rejected as insensitive to the times, the

Department of Motor Vehicles said. State lawmakers approved the special plates last year to commemorate the state's nuclear history and raise funds for the Nevada Test Site Historical Foundation. DMV director Ginny Lewis said that because of state efforts to stop a proposed nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mt., the new plates would be inappropriate. Nuclear testing was conducted above and below ground from 1952 to 1992 at the Nevada Test Site. [A pair of National Cancer Institute studies have concluded that tens of thousands of fatal cancers and hundreds of thousands of radiation-related illnesses were caused by the tests.] -- AP, June 8, 2002

Hudson River Radioactively Contaminated

BUCHANAN, NY -- On Feb. 15, 2000, a ruptured tube of primary cooling water at the Indian Point reactor, 20 miles north of New York City, sent nearly 20,000 gallons of water contaminated with tritium, cesium, iodine and radioactive gases into the secondary steam generating system. Subsequently, radioactive steam was released into the atmosphere and contaminated water flowed through storm drains into the Hudson River and Buchanan waterways. In an Aug. 28 report to the NRC, operators at Consolidated Edison admitted, "a small amount of liquid activity was unexpectedly released" ConEd's PR office continues to lie about the releases saying, "all contaminated liquid was contained," in spite of proof that eight months after the Indian Point accident, the storm drains were still radioactive. Although this was Indian Point's worst accident, ConEd says there was "no danger to the public." -- *New York Times*, March 26, 2002; *The Independent* (London), March 27, 2002.

South Carolina Governor Intends a Blockade of Plutonium Shipments

SOUTH CAROLINA -- Governor Jim Hodges had 36 state troopers practice a blockade of a four-lane highway in preparation for the DOE's plan to ship 34 metric tons of plutonium -- enough to manufacture 4,200 nuclear weapons -- to the Savannah River Site. Hodges pledges to keep the radioactive waste out even if he has to lie in the road himself, unless he receives legally binding assurances that the plutonium will not be abandoned in the state. The shipments were to begin May 15 to meet a schedule for closing Rocky Flats in Colorado by 2006. It will take about one year and 76 semi-trailerloads to transport the deadliest material on Earth 1,500 miles. Even the promise of 800 new jobs for the MOX fuel facility is no longer enticing, and a lawsuit, not being heard until June 13, is temporarily keeping the shipments on hold. South Carolina is also home to Barnwell, a low-level nuclear waste dump. -- *USA Today*, April 23, 2002; *Washington Post*, April 17, 2002; *Columbus Dispatch*, June 6, 2002.

A Victory for Common Sense in California

SACRAMENTO -- Physicians for Social Responsibility, the California Federation of Scientists and the Committee to Bridge the Gap were successful in their lawsuit to prevent companies in California from dumping their radioactive waste in 170 landfills statewide. Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Gail D. Ohanesian agreed that a state regulation allowing radioactive waste in ordinary landfills would have an adverse effect on the environment and was illegal. Companies sought to escape the cost of shipping, or of constructing a licensed and engineered facility, by having radwaste deregulated by the Gray Davis administration. State Senator Sheila Kuehl introduced a bill that would require cleanup of contaminated sites to meet strict federal standards.

-- Los Angeles *Times*, April 15, 2002.

Radioactive Metals Making Their Way Home

TAIWAN -- A 62-pound rod of cesium was pulled from a pile of scrap metal bound for a smelter in Taiwan. No one knows where the rod originated. If it had been melted in the foundry's furnace, extremely hazardous radioactive emissions would have seriously polluted the foundry, workers and the environment. In an alarming and growing international problem, radioactive metals are increasingly entering the public domain. Twenty-six known accidental smeltings of radioactive material have occurred in the U.S. since 1983. This number accounts for more than half of the 49 accidental smeltings worldwide since 1998. Radioactive materials are entering the consumer market on a regular basis, through accident or theft, most often undetected. -- Public Citizen, March 14, 2002

"No danger to the public"

MAURY COUNTY, Tenn. & NATCHEZ, Miss. -- A truck carrying radioactive medical waste overturned on I-65 in Maury County, Tenn. March 16, 2002. The waste was packaged in cardboard. The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency said the low-level garbage posed *no immediate danger to the people or the environment*. After a collision involving a semi and a Mississippi Dept. of Trans. truck, a small road-

testing machine leaked radiation onto U.S. 84 in Natchez, Miss. June 4. Again, officials say there was *no danger to residents*. -- WKRN.com Home, March 17, 2002 & Knoxville *News Sentinel*, June 4, 2002.

More Exposure is Good for Business

WASHINGTON, DC -- The nuclear industry has convinced influential members of Congress to demand relaxed radiation exposure standards. The industry is stranded with millions of tons of nuclear waste, including one million tons of radioactively contaminated scrap metal. To save itself the billions that proper waste management would cost, the industry is attacking the "linear no-threshold" model of radiation protection and its assumption that any dose of radiation no matter how small is harmful. Indeed, Karl Z. Morgan, the "father of health physics," told *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, "Down at low doses you actually get more cancers per person-rem than you do at high doses" That's because low-level exposure damages cells that live on to produce tumors, whereas high doses kill the cells outright.

The DOE's Low Dose Radiation Research Program will produce a report critical of the current no-threshold standard. But DOE is not looking into the effects of cumulative doses from multiple sources of radiation. Jim Thomas, former research director of the Hanford Education Action League, says the DOE "should have nothing to do with this research. [The DOE], facing an astronomical cleanup mortgage, has everything to gain from lowering standards."

Roger Clark, president of the International Commission on Radiological Protection, believes current standards need to be tougher not weaker. "Some people think that too much money is being spent to achieve low levels of contamination." Estimates for partial cleanup of DOE sites run between 65 billion and a trillion dollars. If the industry succeeds in lowering the bar, it could begin selling its radioactive scrap metal for two cents per pound -- increasing everyone's cumulative dose.

-- *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, May/June 2002.

Reactors Out, Renewables In

SWEDEN -- Prime Minister Goeran Persson plans to close the Barsebak 2 nuclear reactor by 2003. The system's electric power will be offset by renewable energy projects and conservation measures. In Belgium, the government plans to start phasing out the country's seven nuclear reactors as early as this December. -- *Earth Island Journal*, Summer 2002

Resources

- * *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 6042 S. Kimbark Ave., Chicago, IL 60637, (773) 702-2555; Web: thebulletin.org.
- * *Campaign Against Depleted Uranium*, Manchester, England, Phone: +44(0)161-273-8293; Email: gmdcnd@gn.apc.org; Web: cadu.org.uk.
- * *Center for Defense Information*, *Defense Monitor*, 1779 Mass. Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20036; (800) 234-3334; Web: cdi.org.
- * *Christian Peacemaker Teams*, P.O. Box 6508, Chicago, IL 60680; (312) 455-1199, Email: synapses@igc.org.
- * *Committee to Bridge the Gap*, 1637 Butler Ave., Los Angeles, CA, 90025; (831) 462-6136; Email: nci@nci.org.
- * *Earth Island Journal*, 300 Broadway, #28, San Francisco, CA 94133; (415) 788-3666; Email: gsmith@earthisland.org
- * *Common Cause*, 1250 Connecticut Ave., NW #600, Washington D.C. 20036, (202) 833-1200; Web: commoncause.org.
- * *Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space*, P.O. Box 90083, Gainesville, FL 32607; Email: globalnet@mindspring.com; Web: space4peace.org.
- * *Hanford Education Action League (HEAL)*, 1718 W. Broadway, Spokane, WA 99201; (509) 326-3370; Fax: (509) 326-2932; Email: HEALLS@aol.com; Web: ies.com/~heal.
- * *Institute for Energy & Environmental Research*, 6935 Laurel Ave., Suite 204, Takoma Park, MD 20912; (301) 270-5500; Email: ieer@ieer.org; Web: ieer.org.
- * *Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy*, 211E 43rd St., #1204, New York, 10017; (212) 818-1861; Email: lcnp@lcnp.org; Web: lcnp.org.
- * *Nuclear Information & Resource Service*, 1424 16th St. NW, #404, Wash., DC 20036; (202) 328-0002; Email: nirsnet@nirs.org.
- * *Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance*, P.O. Box 5743; Oak Ridge, TN 37831; (865) 483-8202; P.O. Box 5743, Oak Ridge, TN 37831; Web: stopthebombs.org.
- * *Physicians for Social Responsibility*, 1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 1012, Washington, DC, 20009, (202) 667-4260; Email: psrnatl@psr.org; Web: psr.org.
- * *Public Citizen*, 1600 20th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009; (202) 588-1000; Email: cmep@citizen.org; Web: citizen.org
- * *Tri-Valley CAREs*, 22582 1st St., Livermore, CA 94550; (925) 443-7148; Web: igc.org/tvc.
- * *U.S. Campaign to Free M. Vanunu*, P.O. Box 43384, Tucson, AZ 85733, (520) 323-8697; Email: nukeresister@igc.apc.org.
- * *Wild Matters, Food & Water, Inc.*, P.O. Box 543, Montpelier, VT, 05601; (802) 229-6222; Web: wildmatters.org.
- * *World Information Service on Energy*, P.O. Box 59636, 1040 LC Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Email: wiseamster@antenna.nl; Web: antenna.nl/wise.

Follow the Money Nuclear Weapons Budget Negates Disarmament Talks

By Dr. Robert Civiak

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), an agency within the DOE, manages the U.S. nuclear weapons arsenal under a program called Stockpile Stewardship. Its annual budget request is called Nuclear Weapons Activities.

On February 4, 2002, the Bush administration submitted its budget request for fiscal year 2003, which begins October 1, 2002. It requests \$5.87 billion for Nuclear Weapons Activities -- an increase of \$306 million, or 5.5% over the 2002 appropriation. The budget request is notable not so much for the size of this year's increase, but for its continuation of a massive buildup in Stockpile Stewardship that has been underway since 1995.

In addition, the request reveals the Administration's plans to modify and upgrade every nuclear weapon in the U.S. arsenal and to design and produce new nuclear weapons.

The 2003 request is over twice what DOE spent in 1995 (\$2.87 billion).

Perhaps more significant than the continuing large spending increases for nuclear weapons, are the insights into U.S. nuclear weapons policies that are revealed in this year's budget request. In November 2001, President Bush announced that the U.S. would reduce the number of operationally deployed nuclear warheads to between 1,700 and 2,200. Nevertheless, the 2003 budget request for Nuclear Weapons Activities gives no indication that the NNSA is planning to support a smaller nuclear weapons stockpile. Instead, the budget provides for major upgrades to every nuclear weapon design in the current stockpile and requests funds to design the first completely new U.S. nuclear weapon for the stockpile in more than 15 years. The budget also places the U.S. on a track that may lead to a resumption of full-scale nuclear weapons testing.

Increases continue for warheads

The budget requests an increase of \$190 million (18%) for Directed Stockpile Work (DSW). The DSW supports the maintenance and enhancement of nuclear weapons in the retained stockpile and the development of new weapons systems. The large increase is to begin production engineering for upgrades to four of the eight nuclear weapons designs (the W76 and W80 warheads; the B61-7 and B61-11 bombs) in the U.S. arsenal. In addition, NNSA is requesting increases in this budget category to begin designing a new nuclear weapon, which it calls the "robust nuclear Earth penetrator."

The budget requests an increase of \$153 million (10%) for Readiness in Technical Base and Facilities. This program funds the laboratories and production sites in the NNSA weapons complex. Together with Facilities and Infrastructure Recapitalization -- a new initiative to fund major improvements to weapons complex facilities -- the combined request for the operating and maintenance of these programs is \$426 million, (28%) above comparable 2001 spending.

"Enhancing" nuclear warhead capabilities

In 1993, Clinton and the Congress established the Stockpile Stewardship Program (SSP) under the gloss of "maintaining confidence in the stockpile absent full scale underground bomb testing." The 2003 budget changes that goal to "Maintain and enhance the safety, security, and reliability of the nation's nuclear weapons"

Despite the absence of a mandate to improve nuclear weapons, DOE and NNSA have been doing so under the guise of "refurbishing" and conducting "life extension programs."

Today, NNSA is: rebuilding nuclear weapons to improve accuracy; altering systems for storing and injecting tritium gas into exploding nuclear weapons; revising systems to vary warhead yields; revamping security and use control systems; altering the ability of warheads to withstand hostile environments; installing new neutron generators that modify how the nuclear explosion is initiated; adjusting the height at which nuclear blasts occur; and adding capabilities for warheads to penetrate beneath the surface of the Earth before exploding.

The 2003 budget includes money for changes to every single warhead in the U.S. arsenal. NNSA still couches the upgrades in the euphemistic terms "refurbishment" and "life extension," but the budget finally reveals the previously unstated goal of *enhancing* nuclear weapons.

Designing new nuclear weapons

The budget proposes a Design Definition and Cost Study for a new "robust nuclear Earth penetrator." Initiating such a design requires Pentagon permission and a commitment to develop the new design to a point at which it can be considered for addition to the arsenal. It was during this phase of development that the DOE used to begin full-scale underground nuclear tests of a new bomb.

It is not clear whether NNSA plans to design the new weapon from scratch or to modify an existing warhead. It already modified the B61 warhead so much (for an Earth-penetrating role) that many consider it a new nuclear weapon.

Nevertheless, the new robust nuclear Earth penetrator would be the first new H-bomb to enter the stockpile in the post-nuclear testing environment. It is also possible that NNSA wants to end the testing moratorium.

The budget does not have specific funding numbers on the design program. Its cost is included within the \$46 million for Supporting Research and Development under the Directed Stockpile Work program. For comparison, NNSA plans to spend \$33 million for Supporting Research and Development for other activities in 2002.

No reduction in nuclear weapons

In November 2001, President Bush announced that the United States would reduce the number of operationally deployed nuclear warheads to between 1,700 and 2,200. On the contrary, at least three aspects of the 2003 budget indicate that NNSA expects to continue support for all the nuclear weapons in the current arsenal.

First, the budget requests only \$24 million for the dismantling of nuclear weapons; a decrease of \$2.0 million (7%) from 2002 funding. No money is allocated to study dismantling issues relating to any of the nuclear weapons in the current arsenal.

Second, the budget requests \$126 million to begin replenishing supplies of tritium gas for nuclear warheads in 2006 -- an increase of \$3.6 million (3%) over 2002. NNSA's plan for tritium indicates a plan to support an arsenal of about 10,000 nuclear warheads.

Third, the budget requests \$190 million for manufacturing and certification of a new plutonium "pit" for the W88 warhead. The budget provides for adding as many as 10 new W88 warheads to the arsenal per year beginning as early as 2007. The W88 is one of two types of warheads on submarine-launched missiles. There are now nearly 400 W88 warheads in the arsenal and more than 3,000 W76s -- the other warhead on submarine-based missiles. NNSA says that it needs a capability to produce new W88 warheads, because it plans to remove one from the stockpile every other year for destructive testing. There seems to be little reason, however, to produce any new W88 warheads, much less 10 per year, if the U.S. plans to deploy only 1,700-2,200 nuclear weapons in total.

Toward a return to full-scale nuclear testing

The NNSA budget moves toward a return to full-scale testing of nuclear warheads. [So-called "subcritical" testing has continued throughout the moratorium imposed in 1991 by Bush the First.] NNSA and the Pentagon are conducting a study to examine "the optimum test readiness time." Pending the results of that study, the budget requests \$15 million to reduce the time needed to conduct a nuclear test. Any move to shorten the test readiness time would be a dangerous sign, especially when combined with the plans for a new Earth-penetrating warhead, a rush to certify newly produced plutonium "pits" for the W88, and plans to modify every warhead in the stockpile, any of which may provide a rationalization for a return to full-scale testing.

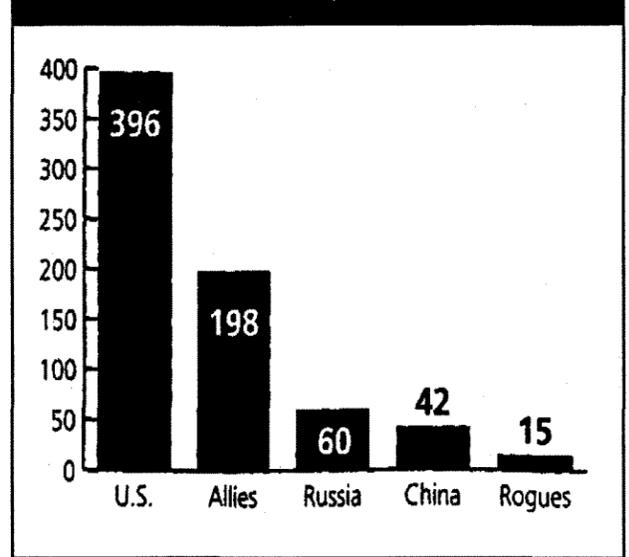
Civiak directed the Science Policy Division at the Congressional Research Service and later served as Budget Examiner for the DOE nuclear weapons program in the White House Office of Management and Budget. This is an edited version of an article in the May 2002 Citizen's Watch of Tri-Valley CAREs.

Meet the New Bomb, Same as the Old Bomb

Raffi Khatchadourian reports in *The Nation*, April 1, 2002, on the so-called "robust nuclear Earth penetrator," a new H-bomb that neo-Strangeloves in the Pentagon hope will go 50 feet into the ground before detonating. Khatchadourian interviewed Robert Nelson of the Federation of American Scientists, who said it's impossible for a burrowing nuclear bomb to contain the hydrogen explosion and "reduce fallout near urban areas" as Pentagon strategists claim. Nelson notes that 5-kiloton "mini" atomic bombs tested at the Nevada Test Site had to be exploded at least 650 feet below the surface "to be fully contained -- far deeper than any mini-nuke could travel."

U.S. MILITARY SPENDING VS. THE WORLD

Dollars in billions



Source: *The Defense Monitor*, Center for Defense Information

"What nuclear bombs do"

By Arundhati Roy

DELHI, India -- This week as diplomats' families and tourists quickly disappeared, journalists from Europe and America arrived in droves. Most of them stay at the Imperial Hotel in Delhi. Many of them call me. Why are you still here, they ask, why haven't you left the city? Isn't nuclear war a real possibility? It is, but where shall I go? If I go away and everything and every one, every friend, every tree, every home, every dog, squirrel and bird that I have known and loved is incinerated, how shall I live on? Who shall I love, and who will love me back? Which society will welcome me and allow me to be the hooligan I am, here, at home?

We've decided we're all staying. We've huddled together, we realize how much we love each other and we think what a shame it would be to die now. Life's normal, only because the macabre has become normal. While we wait for rain, for football, for justice, on TV the old generals and the eager boy anchors talk of first strike and second strike capability, as though they're discussing a family board game. My friends and I discuss *Prophecy*, the film of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the dead bodies choking the river, the living stripped of their skin and hair, we remember especially the man who just melted into the steps of the building and we imagine ourselves like that, as stains on staircases.

My husband's writing a book about trees. He has a section on how figs are pollinated, each fig by its own specialized fig wasp. There are nearly 1,000 different species of fig wasps. All the fig wasps will be nuked, and my husband and his book.

.....
If there is a nuclear war, our foes will not be China or America or even each other. Our foe will be the earth herself. The very elements -- the sky, the air, the land, the wind and water -- will all turn against us. ... Rivers will turn to poison. The air will become fire. ... What shall we eat? What shall we drink? What shall we breathe? -- "The End of Imagination"
.....

A dear friend, who is an activist in the anti-dam movement in the Narmanda Valley, is on indefinite hunger strike. Today is the twelfth day of her fast. She and the others fasting with her are weakening quickly. They are protesting because the government is bulldozing schools, felling forests, uprooting handpumps, forcing people from their villages. What an act of faith and hope. But to a government comfortable with the notion of a wasted world, what's a wasted value?

Terrorists have the power to trigger a nuclear war. Non-violence is treated with contempt. Displacement, dispossession, starvation, poverty, disease, these are all just funny comic strip items now. Meanwhile, emissaries of the coalition against terror come and go preaching restraint. Tony Blair arrives to preach peace -- and on the side, to sell weapons to both India and Pakistan. The last question every visiting journalist always asks me: "Are you writing another book?"

That question mocks me. Another book? Right now when it looks as though all the music, the art, the architecture, the literature, the whole of human civilization means nothing to the monsters who run the world. What kind of book should I write? For now, just for now, for just a while pointlessness is my biggest enemy. That's what nuclear bombs do, whether they're used or not. They violate everything that is humane, they alter the meaning of life.

Why do we tolerate them? Why do we tolerate the men who use nuclear weapons to blackmail the entire human race?

*Roy is the author of *The God of Small Things*, and *The Cost of Living*, which includes her 1998 essay "The End of Imagination." This commentary appeared in the *Observer* of London, June 2, 2002.*

Preposterous Nuclear Review

By Molly Mechtenberg

In January 2002 the Bush administration completed its so-called Nuclear Posture Review (NPR). The congressionally mandated report assesses current and future plans for the U.S. nuclear arsenal, projecting the Pentagon's nuclear war strategy, and megaton levels for 10 years and beyond. Although classified, the review was leaked to the *L.A. Times* in March. Included in the NPR is a broadened rationale for using nuclear weapons, allowing even a first strike against non-nuclear states. The plan was lambasted as "lunacy" by editors and parliamentarians around the world.

Bush's NPR proposes a "new triad" inside the nuclear weapons complex, replacing the familiar mix of bombers, land-based ICBMs, and submarine-launched missiles. The new triad consists of: 1) "non-nuclear and nuclear strike capabilities," which indicates a blending of nuclear and conventional weapons; 2) "active and passive defenses," meaning missile defenses for the U.S. mainland and "theater missile defense" systems designed to protect U.S. forces deployed overseas; and 3) "a responsive defense structure" or "offensive deterrence," signifying an upgraded nuclear weapons infrastructure. With the new triad, the Pentagon has posed ever more pretexts and places to wage nuclear war.

Just weeks after the release of the NPR, Presidents Bush and Vladimir Putin of Russia agreed to a three-page nuclear weapons "reduction" treaty. The agreement does not require actual dismantling of weapons, and therefore fits nicely into Bush's plan for the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

The "new triad" of U.S. nuclear weapons

Key to the Administration's upgraded nuclear arsenal is the development of a "robust nuclear Earth penetrator," or "mini-nuke." The Pentagon considers this "low-yield" nuclear weapon more usable due to the "minimal collateral damage" it would presumably cause. The five-kiloton "mini-nuke" would -- if it worked -- be used to destroy underground installations and hardened bunkers. The introduction of the "mini-nuke" is imminent, since it can be developed using modified versions of existing nuclear weapons. By modifying existing warheads as opposed to building new ones, the U.S. hopes to avoid international reproach for designing a "new" weapon.

To use the word "mini" in front of "nuke" is preposterous and paradoxical. They would be radiation weapons with a payload equivalent to 5,000 tons of TNT, generating radioactive fallout that would kill indiscriminately for years. If the bombs were exploded above ground, a one-mile blast diameter would occur -- just 1/2 mile shorter than the blast diameter of the Hiroshima bomb.

The *New York Times* reported that the NPR "stresses the need for nuclear weapons that would be more easy to use against enemy weapons of mass destruction because they would be of variable or low yield, be highly accurate and could be quickly targeted." Such statements suggest that the Pentagon is designing and developing this new nuclear weapon with intent to use it.

The NPR reveals that the U.S. military intends to maintain its nuclear "trump card" for the next 50 years. This is indicated by the Pentagon's plan to upgrade all its major nuclear "platforms":

- The Navy's retrofit of four Trident nuclear submarines to carry more precise and deadly missiles;
- The Air Force's new ICBM to be operational in 2020;
- A new submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) and nuclear submarine, planned for 2030;
- A new heavy bomber designed for 2040.

Each system will be equipped with new warheads.

Currently taking place is the conversion of the four oldest Trident nuclear submarines to carry Tomahawk cruise missiles and conventional warheads. This upgrade expands the role of the Trident submarine fleet, key to a U.S. first-strike. The integration blurs the distinction between nuclear and conventional warfare. At the Pentagon, the lines are no longer clearly drawn.

Look what happened when radiation entered the realm of conventional weapons. Depleted uranium is the radioactive metal uranium-238, and is used to add strength and weight to conventional munitions. Hundreds of tons of DU munitions have been used in Iraq, Kosovo, Bosnia and most likely Afghanistan. Depleted uranium will contaminate the air, water, and soil, and poison people with radiation for millions of years.

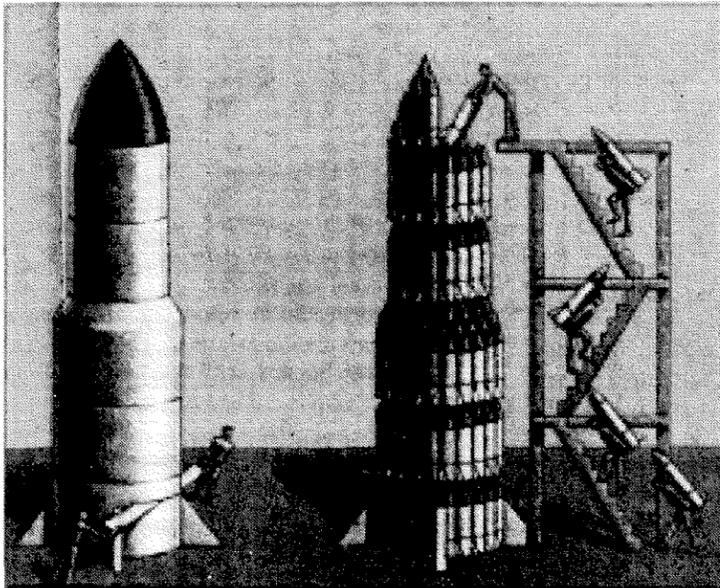
The Pentagon's use of DU can be considered the first great inroad of nuclear into conventional warfare. (In Helen Caldicott's 2002 book *The New Nuclear Danger*, a chapter on DU is titled "Nuclear War in the Gulf and Kosovo.") Will the mini nuke be the next step? Will we allow this?

"Active and passive defenses"

This second leg of the "new triad" involves the Bush administration's plan for a missile defense system. The Pentagon alleges that the primary goals of missile defense are to

defend against missile attacks and to counteract nuclear threats against the U.S. Not so widely talked about is the Theater Missile Defense (TMD) program that also falls under the rubric of "missile defense." TMD is primarily an offensive system aimed at supporting U.S. forces involved in conflicts overseas. The U.S. Space Command document *Vision for 2020*, is clear about Pentagon designs on outer space: the overall goal is "full spectrum dominance" over "the space dimension of military operations to protect U.S. interests and investment."

Within a week of Sept. 11, Congress approved President Bush's full \$8.3 billion request for missile defense research and development, and the Congressional Budget Office reported in Jan. 2002 that the full "layered" system envisioned



by the Bush administration could cost \$238 billion by 2025. Since 1957, the U.S. has spent roughly \$125 billion on various missile defense programs without producing a single working device.

Two tests of missile defense systems conducted in 2001 were rigged: a beacon was implanted in the nose of the target missile; the intercepting missile tracked the beacon over 5,000 miles to within 400 meters of the target. Each test costs taxpayers \$100 million.

As we go to press, the U.S. plans to unilaterally withdraw from the ABM treaty June 13, the day before the Air Force breaks ground at Ft. Greely, Alaska for a new missile defense testing range.

"A responsive defense structure"

The Bush administration believes the existing nuclear arsenal to be outdated and not sufficient in a post-cold war world. The NPR states that "the need is clear for a revitalized nuclear weapons complex that will be able, if directed, to design, develop, manufacture, and certify new warheads in response to new national requirements." In other words, the Bush administration is seeking the capability to produce nuclear weapons quickly if a crisis situation arises. "Presently 12-48 hours is required to develop a plan to attack a single new target, depending on the weapon system to be employed. A more flexible planning system is needed to address the requirements of adaptive planning," the report states.

The single remaining full-scale nuclear weapons production site in the U.S. -- the Y-12 complex at Oak Ridge, Tennessee -- is currently being renovated and expanded. This seven-to-eight year, \$4 billion project will enable Y-12 to do 10 times its current level of nuclear weapons work and go into production of new warheads and modifications such as the "mini-nuke." The current work at the factory involves upgrading nuclear weapons "secondaries" (the component which makes a bomb thermonuclear) and other uranium components. Despite an acknowledged seven-year backlog of dismantling retired warheads, production of nuclear weapons components continues to be the top priority at Y-12.

Other developments indicate that the White House is placing more emphasis on nuclear weapons and the role they will play in the future of U.S. war-making.

- The NPR projects the long-term need for a modern facility for new plutonium production and replacement of plutonium components.
- Three national design labs -- Los Alamos, Sandia, and Lawrence Livermore -- are reinstating advanced warhead design teams.
- The Pantex nuclear weapons plant in Amarillo, Texas is being expanded to carry a work capacity of 600 warheads per year, up from 350.
- There has been movement to resume testing at the Nevada Test Site.
- The proposed nuclear weapons budget for 2003 increases spending to maintain a massive nuclear arsenal.

It is clear that the Administration is seeking to generate nuclear weapons and war plans quickly.

The "offensive deterrence" targeting strategy

As part of a more "flexible" nuclear doctrine, the Administration is allowing the possibility of pre-emptive strikes against countries that threaten or use chemical, nuclear or biological arms against the U.S. or its allies. The plan negates the President's claim that U.S. nuclear weapons exist solely as a deterrent to other powers.

Under this system, dubbed "offensive deterrence" by the Pentagon, nuclear weapons could be aimed at non-nuclear countries. This strategy would put an end to the practice of assigning a set of fixed targets on a specific country, as was done during the cold war. Adaptive planning to "generate war plans quickly in time-critical situations" will play a vital role in future U.S. war planning. The more flexible targeting system, first adopted by the Clinton administration after the Soviet collapse, is now calling for a shorter response time in making nuclear options and targets available.

The NPR lists potential targets under which this strategy would be executed: Russia, China, North Korea, Iraq, Iran, Syria and Libya. The report then expounds: "Current examples of immediate contingencies include an Iraqi attack on Israel or its neighbors, a North Korean attack on South Korea, or a military confrontation over the status of Taiwan." In addition, "Nuclear weapons could be employed against targets able to withstand non-nuclear attack."

Nuclear arms "reductions": when is the bomb not The Bomb?

On May 24, 2002 Presidents George Bush and Vladimir Putin of Russia signed a written agreement to reduce their strategic nuclear arsenals from current levels of 6,000 deployed warheads apiece to 1,700-to-2,200 by the year 2012.

The agreement, only three pages in length (compared to the last nuclear reduction treaty, START I, which was over 700 pages long), is designed to retain the Pentagon's control of planning the U.S. nuclear arsenal. The accord does not require the destruction of a single missile launcher or warhead. There is no time requirement for reductions to take place, and a temporary suspension of the reductions and reconstitution of weapons would be allowed. As long as each side has no more than 2,200 warheads at the end of 2012, then the treaty would expire and leave both the U.S. and Russia free to do what they want. Michael Gordon of the *New York Times* reports, "... it is a fitting agreement for Pentagon planners who are more concerned about protecting the United States' nuclear options than constraining those of the Russians. It marks a break with traditional approaches to arms control."

Nuclear weapons are kept in different stages of readiness and dismantlement, and there are many ways to measure when a nuclear weapon is no longer a nuclear weapon. In fact, when politicians talk about nuclear weapons, they are usually only referring to strategically or operationally deployed warheads -- active warheads. The U.S. arsenal consists of over 7,000 *more* intact warheads, either in overhaul, on reserve, or deployed (separated from their delivery vehicle). There are enough stored plutonium components to assemble another 5,000 weapons.

The NPR made it clear that instead of enacting real disarmament, the U.S. plans to make "reductions" by placing weapons in active reserve. This treaty allows the Administration to reap political benefits of a weapons "reduction" policy while maintaining unilateral strategic hegemony with a massive nuclear arsenal. As one senior Administration official said, "What we have now agreed to do under the treaty is what we wanted to do anyway ... That's our kind of treaty."

Conclusion

While the nations of the world and the citizens of the U.S. yearn for peace and disarmament, the NPR indicates that the Administration has a different plan: the maintenance of U.S. economic domination and military superiority at any cost. The revitalization of the U.S. nuclear complex, development of a nuclear weapon we are more likely to use, and a new, more flexible targeting strategy, are endangering nuclear disarmament treaties and risking a renewed proliferation of nuclear weapons. Even more alarming is that these changes are taking place with no public discussion and debate. In the press, there is little hard reporting and even less criticism of these major plans that will affect us all. It appears as though the Bush administration has succeeded in placing a deceptive nuclear weapons reduction treaty at center-stage, while slipping the real news -- the NPR and plans for first-strike -- in the back door. A disengaged and apathetic public is giving no indication of dissent.

It is hard for a misinformed public to understand that Bush's new nuclear policy is making the U.S. less secure. The U.S., as the world's only superpower, carries the responsibility to lead by example. The Bush administration, by placing its confidence in nuclear weapons, is clearly lacking in this vision and leadership.

Molly Mechtenberg lives at the Anathoth Community Farm in Luck, Wisc. and is on the Nukewatch staff.

Lakes & Prairies Gives Sam Day Peacemaker Award

By Gail Vaughn

The 11th semi-annual meeting of the Lakes and Prairies Life Community, held May 3-to-5 in Ferryville Wisc., focused on issues of nuclear safety and its personal cost to whistleblowers -- aka "safety advocates."

Ann Harris, of We the People, an advocacy group in Tennessee, spoke about the difficulties encountered by workers within the nuclear power industry who dare to expose unsafe conditions encountered on the job: harassment by management; ostracism by co-workers; death threats; financial hardships; even animosity from some anti-nuclear advocates, those who view all nuclear industry employees as "the enemy."

Harris should know. As a former employee of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the largest government-owned utility in the U.S., she prevailed in six legal actions opposing licensing and start-up of the last nuclear power reactor in North America -- Watts Bar -- where she

Israel's Dimona "Death Factory" Exposed

By Rayna Moss

The secrecy surrounding Israel's Dimona nuclear weapons complex slipped a little when Israeli TV for the first time carried testimony from former reactor workers who spoke out about the dangers of the complex. Their testimony echoed that of Mordechai Vanunu, who remains in Ashkelon prison since revealing the truth about Dimona in 1986.

Israel's commercial television station, Channel 2, broadcast a special report January 18 exposing the deadly dangers of the Dimona nuclear reactor. The special report was broadcast in the framework of the Friday evening weekly news roundup, one of the most highly rated television programs in Israel, with an audience of hundreds of thousands.

For the first time, the Israeli mass media presented to the public first-hand testimony from former reactor workers, who tore off the cloak of secrecy shrouding the reactor and spoke out about real and immediate dangers -- to workers as well as to the environment -- posed by this secret and unsuspected nuclear weapons factory. "This report," stated the commentator, "will leave many citizens in this country sleepless."

In case after case, former employees revealed a frightening absence of safety procedures and a lack of awareness of the dangers in working in the reactor complex. "People were contaminated and went home to their families contaminated," one witness stated. Physicians who had examined former employees and others, and who studied working conditions at the reactor, stated unequivocally that they had been exposed to dangerous levels of radiation, as well as to harmful acids, solvents and chemicals.

Nevertheless, in case after case, the medical administration connected to the nuclear reactor denied that any of the 100 employees -- some now deceased -- who had contracted various cancers and other illnesses, had been harmed by their work in Dimona.

Two former employees were told by government physicians that their stomach cancers were caused by "bad eating habits, mainly consuming fatty foods." "If so," replied one, "that's still a work-related illness, since I ate two, sometimes three meals a day here, for 30 years." With regard to employees who suffer from Hodgkin's Disease and other illnesses, the official version was simply: "The employee was not exposed to radiation."

However, the employees and their lawyer revealed falsified, fraudulent and incorrect documents that were issued by the Nuclear Research Facility (NRF -- the official name of the Dimona nuclear weapons facility), all concocted in order to deny the fact that employees were indeed exposed to radiation in the course of their work.

One document, supposedly representing annual inspections, was clearly manufactured by an amateur: the handwriting in all of the columns was identical; the inspection in 1976 preceded that of 1975; the findings were all the same -- no exposure to radiation. In addition to robbing the ill employees, widows and orphans of their right to compensation due to work-related injuries, the purpose of the organized lying was to conceal the deadly nature of the NRF.

In a message to antinuclear demonstrators gathered near the Dimona reactor in May 2000, imprisoned nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu termed the NRF "a death factory ... built by people who are preparing a second Auschwitz."

Fourteen years after Vanunu was kidnapped, tried *in secret* and sentenced to 18 years in prison for revealing the truth about Dimona, an important part of the Israeli media is finally echoing his dire warnings.

— Moss wrote this report for the Feb. 1, 2002 Nuclear Monitor, newsletter of the World Information Service on Energy and the Nuclear Information & Resource Service.

discovered major electrical safety problems and significant programmatic safety issues.

Also present was Vera English, whose disclosures resulted in the federal law protecting nuclear whistleblowers, after her Supreme Court victory in *English vs. General Electric*.

The morning's events also honored two other important nuclear whistleblowers. The first was Nukewatch founder, Sam Day, whose decades-long fight against nuclear secrecy has been an inspiration to many anti-nuclear activists. Sam, who passed away unexpectedly in January 2001, was instrumental in founding the Lakes and Prairies Life Community. To honor him, the gathering presented the first Sam Day Memorial Peacemaker Award. Sam's wife Kathleen and one of his sons, Josh Day, provided a poignant commemoration.

The award was given by Sam's friend and Plowshares activist, Joe Gump. It was awarded to Mordechai Vanunu, who has paid arguably the highest price of any living whistleblower, having spent 15 years in prison for notifying the world about Israel's nuclear weapons. Mordechai's adoptive parents, Mary and Nick Eoloff, accepted the award on his behalf. They were leaving within the week to visit Mordechai in Ashkelon Prison, Israel, so hopefully he was able to receive the award personally in reasonably short order. After the presentation, the BBC video about Vanunu was shown to the audience, for the benefit of those who were not familiar with his case.

The afternoon's highlight was a debate over the issue of nuclear waste transport, and the future of nuclear energy. Panel participants were Del Butterfield, a nuclear engineer who advocates shipping the waste to Yucca Mountain; John Parkyn, chairman of the board of Private Fuel Storage, a

nuclear utility consortium that hopes to ship its waste "temporarily" to the Goshute Reservation in Skull Valley, Utah; Dave Ritter, of Public Citizen in Washington, DC; and Dave Kraft, of the Nuclear Energy Information Service in Chicago. It was made clear at the outset that the two sides agreed on one central issue: isolation of highly dangerous radioactive waste is paramount.

The event was well-attended by media and by representatives of the local nuclear utility, Dairyland Power. There was some meaningful dialog and exchange between the opposing sides, and there was thoughtful coverage of the debate in the local press.

Gail Vaughn is a life-long peace activist in Ferryville, Wisc. A long-time Nukewatch volunteer, she maintains the Nukewatch website.



Photo by John LaForge

Mordechai Vanunu's adoptive parents, Mary and Nick Eoloff, accepted the Sam Day Peacemaker Award on his behalf. They visited Vanunu in Ashkelon prison in May. The scratchboard art was created by Bonnie Urfer while in federal prison camp this winter.

Davis-Besse Does Frankenstein

By Bonnie Urfer

Whistles and bells rang when workers at the Davis-Besse nuclear reactor near Toledo, Ohio, went in to repair five of 69 cracked and leaking nozzles through which reactor control rods enter the reactor vessel.

What they discovered was a corroded area on the top of the reactor lid -- 4 inches by 5 inches across and 6 inches deep -- running right through the reactor head and down to the stainless steel lining. Boric acid, used to absorb neutrons, had been leaking from vessel head flanges onto the dome long enough to eat 70 pounds of metal. The lid is designed to contain cooling water under more than 2,200 pounds of PSI. Just a bulging 1/8 inch stainless-steel liner remained to keep thousands of gallons of radioactive, 650-degree water inside the reactor vessel.

Davis-Besse was shut-down for refueling at the time. Government and industry officials said they believed that with temperatures of 600 degrees on the vessel head, any liquid leaking from above would boil off and leave just a little harmless powder. But FirstEnergy (owner and operator) officials and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) knew of the corrosion problem for four years.

One report presented to an audience of 300 local residents on April 12, stated that the boric acid lavalike buildup has accumulated for so long, workers removed it two years ago with crowbars. Removing the boric acid from the dome didn't take place earlier because it would have led to high radiation doses for workers. Anyone in the repair area receives a year's worth of radiation in just a couple of hours.

Since discovery of the first acid hole, two more have been noticed.

According to a Toledo *Blade* report, a former NRC commissioner has publicly labeled the deterioration at the Davis-Besse reactor as the worst safety threat since the partial meltdown at Three Mile Island.

Davis-Besse stands to lose \$10 to \$15 million per month while the reactor is forcibly shut down. Executives are eager to patch up the reactor.

The first plan suggested to the NRC by FirstEnergy was to weld 13-inch plates onto the dome using remotely operated equipment. The NRC asked a long list of questions that must have stymied FirstEnergy so they came up with a second idea to save the reactor from the radioactive scrap heap.

Although it's never been done before, FirstEnergy, with blessings from the NRC, intends to replace the reactor vessel lid with a different cap. This Frankenstein maneuver consists of spending up to \$75 million to purchase and install a lid (unused and only slightly rusty), from the abandoned Midland 2, Michigan reactor project.

The Midland and Davis-Besse reactor heads, both built by Babcock & Wilcox, were not designed to be interchangeable. Bob Schrauder, FirstEnergy director of life cycle management said, "but [they] are consistent among most of the major technical specifications." Most? Apparently no one read *Frankenstein*, a story about an experiment gone way bad. Robert F. Saunders, president of FirstEnergy's nuclear division said that his company is a "learning organization" and would inevitably encounter occasional problems.

All reactor fuel must be moved into the spent fuel pool before any work can commence. The 150-ton Midland reactor head must be cleaned, tested and transported to Davis-Besse, probably by truck. Then a gaping 20 X 20-foot hole needs to be cut in Besse's giant reactor containment building, so the acid-eaten head can be taken out and the rusty one put in. The building will then be reconstructed with rebar and concrete. Then the switch will be thrown on the experiment and Frankenvessel may come to life!

The old dome will be quickly dismantled and shipped to Barnwell in South Carolina for dumping as "low-level" radioactive waste.

The entire process is to be repeated in 2004 when a new replacement -- manufactured by Framatome ANP of France -- arrives. At a loss of about \$15 million per month, Davis-Besse executives are not willing to wait for the new, perfectly fitting dome. Seven hundred and eighty people are employed at the reactor and they work whether or not it generates electricity. The company must pay \$500,000 per month in property taxes. Nuclear generated electricity is the most expensive in the world and in this case the company must pay the price.

Sixty-eight additional reactors around the U.S. may have the same acid-corrosion problem. The NRC is trying to find out but efforts are hampered by utilities failing to provide an adequate basis for their assurances. The vessel heads are covered by insulation that may exacerbate the corrosion and keep the metal-eating process hidden from view.

Rule of Bombs or Rule of Law?

A study released in April, *Rule of Power or Rule of Law? An Assessment of U.S. Policies and Actions Regarding Security-Related Treaties*, concludes that the United States is disregarding crucial treaty obligations and undermining the security of the people of the United States and the world. The report, prepared by the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER) and the Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy, gives evidence that the U.S. is more often than not setting itself above the rules and abiding by treaties only when convenient.

The treaties examined in the report are the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the United Nations [Kyoto] Convention on Global Climate Change, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Treaty Banning Anti-Personnel Mines, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

There is concern among the authors about U.S. disregard of binding treaties that aim to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons, such as the CTBT and the NPT. The authors maintain that since Sept. 11, global cooperation is essential to marginalize the role of nuclear weapons and create complete accounts of nuclear material to reduce proliferation and the production of "dirty bombs."

The Bush administration's latest Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) and nuclear weapons budget run counter to obligations under the NPT. John Burroughs, co-author of the study, says that the NPR "... makes a mockery of U.S. commitments under the Nonproliferation Treaty. The disclosure of a variety of options for use of nuclear weapons, including by preemptive attack, against non-nuclear weapon states, are contrary to a commitment to a 'diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policy' made less than two years ago." He adds, "... the U.S. has adopted an irrational policy of elevating the role of nuclear weapons in its overall military strategy." [See Molly Mechtenberg's article on page 5.]

In direct violation of the CTBT, the U.S. is currently planning laboratory thermonuclear explosions. The CTBT bans all nuclear explosions and all activities that are designed to encourage or cause nuclear explosions for any purpose, warlike or peaceful. At the National Ignition Facility at the Livermore Lab in California, huge new laser devices are being constructed that would experiment with thermonuclear explosions, equaling as much as 10 pounds of TNT. The White House's NPR also proposes a return to full-scale nuclear weapons testing.

In an unparalleled move, the Administration announced its plans to withdraw from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) in December of 2001. By doing so the United States became the first major power to unilaterally withdraw from a nuclear arms control treaty. This move sets a dangerous precedent for all countries that are committed to key disarmament treaties.

For several of the treaties discussed in the report, including the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention, the U.S. approach has been to try and exempt itself from the verification arrangement for monitoring states. The report states, "It indicates a lack of good faith if the U.S. wants near-perfect knowledge of others' compliance so as to be able to detect all possible violations, while also wanting all too often to shield itself from scrutiny."

The authors of the report reaffirm the need for multilateral treaties that articulate international norms in areas such as human rights and the use of weapons of annihilation. The

U.S., with its increasing use of military action as a method to attain its objectives, is undermining the system of treaties. The authors conclude, "If the rule of power rather than the rule of law becomes the norm, especially in the context of the present inequalities and injustices around the world, security is likely to be a casualty."

This report is excerpted from a story in the May 2002 Citizen's Watch, newsletter of Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment (CAREs).

Y-12 Bomb Factory Protesters Offer 'Defense of Necessity'

Jamie Satterfield, writing for the Knoxville *News-Sentinel*, reports that four people charged with trespassing at the DOE's Y-12 bomb factory as part of a nuclear weapons protest asked a federal magistrate to let them tell a jury they had no choice but to enter the property. Arguing that the production of nuclear weapons at the Oak Ridge, Tenn. Y-12 site violates the law, attorneys for the four alleged trespassers asked U.S. Magistrate Clifford Shirley to allow them to present a "defense of necessity" at their June 18 trial. "These folks acted to enforce that law. Exactly what the U.S. Attorney's Office does every day," attorney Mike Whalen argued.

Whalen represents Timothy Mellen, of Oak Ridge, who is charged along with Mary Adams, of Bisbee, Ariz.; Lena Feldman, of Lexington, Ky.; and Sister Mary Lentsch, of Apison, Tenn. All four were charged April 14 after crossing onto Y-12 property. Protests organized by the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance have become commonplace at Y-12.

The four face up to a year in prison and a fine of up to \$100,000 if convicted of the charge, the highest level federal misdemeanor.

But the crux of the pretrial hearing was whether the protesters should be allowed to tell a jury the heart of their mes-



THE GOOD LIFE

sage: The NPT binds the U.S. government to work toward nuclear disarmament, but the Pentagon continues to produce the weapons at Y-12. The protesters believe, their attorneys argued, that trespassing was the only means left to stop factories like Y-12 from operating. "These individuals had a responsibility and a duty to act," Whalen argued.

The attorneys want to use what was referred to as a "necessity defense." Under that defense, a defendant seeks to be cleared of an offense by arguing that he or she had no "legal alternative" left to stop "imminent harm" and was forced to break a law in order to prevent a greater harm.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeff Theodore said the protesters were "stretching" far beyond the purpose of a necessity defense in trying to argue that they had no choice but to trespass.

Magistrate Shirley said he would take the matter under advisement and issue a ruling later.

CALENDAR

Another peace calendar is available at
<www.peace.protest.net>
Check it for events in your area.

June

21 Protect the Earth Community Gathering. At Lac Courte Oreilles, sponsored by Anishinaabe Nijjii, a movement of Native and Non-Native people dedicated to protecting the Earth for the future generations. *Walking Walter's Way -- A Day of Celebration of the life's work of Walt Bresette* beginning at noon and going all day/evening. Held outdoors in the traditional lodges under the tall pines at the LCO Anishinaabe Cultural Healing Center, located on Indian School Road (11 miles SE of Hayward, WI). Contact Sandy Lyon, Box 31, Springbrook, WI 54875; Phone & FAX: (715) 766-2725; Email: water@spacestar.net; Web: protecttheearth.com

29-30 Protect the Earth Community Gathering. Dedicated to "Walter, Water and Wild Rice" at Mole Lake, WI, Sokaogon Chippewa Community. Free rough camping under the beautiful pines at Mole Lake's "Strawberry Moon" Pow Wow Grounds. Contact: Sandy Lyon, above.

July

27-28 Peace Action's 15th Annual National Congress. John Marshall Law School, 315 S. Plymouth Court, downtown Chicago, Ill. Keynote Speakers: Amber Amundsen, peace activist and 9/11 widow and U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-OH). **End Bush's Global War Protest** at Boeing headquarters and **Women's retreat** on July 27, starting at 5 p.m. Advanced registration. Contact: Kavita Thakkar, Peace Action, 1819 H Street NW #420, Washington, DC 20006; Phone: (312) 371-9527.

28-30 The Demise of Democracy: The Rise of Corporate Power. Topics: Money and Politics, Media and Public Opinion, Globalization, Corporate Governance, Consumerism and Corporate Welfare. The Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center, Duluth, Minnesota. Registration Fees: large organizations: \$125; small organizations: \$75; Students: \$25. \$25 scholarships available to first 100 small

organization and student registrants. Contact: Sue Mageau, Phone: (218) 525-4781; Email: mageau@isfusa.org; Web: isfusa.org

August

3-10 Stories and Strategies: Nonviolent Resistance and Social Change. Dublin, Ireland. The first War Resisters International Triennial Conference of the 21st Century. Contact: WRI, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1 9DX, Britain; Phone: (+44) 20-7278 4040; Web: wri-irg.org

4-19 Trident Ploughshares International Disarmament Camp. At Peaton Glen Wood, near Couplort, Scotland; 15 days of direct disarmament action and campaign workshops at the Faslane and Couplort nuclear weapon bases. Open to all who will undertake nonviolence workshop and sign nonviolence pledge. Contact: Phone: 0845-45 88-366 (outside UK: ++441259753815); Email: davidmc@enterprise.net; Web: tridentploughshares.org or gn.apc.org/tp2000/

8, 9 & 10 Nagasaki Memorial Peace Camp and Nonviolent Direct Action at Project ELF. Speakers, music, nonviolent workshop. Rough camping in Chequamegon National Forest at the Navy ELF transmitter. Contact: Nukewatch, Email: nukewatch@lakeland.ws; or -- if you're in Chicago -- Christian Peacemaker Teams, P.O. Box 6508, Chicago, IL 60680; Phone: (312) 455-1199, Email: synapses@igc.org

September

28 The Weaponization of Space Conference. Sponsored by Peace Action Wisc., at Marquette University, downtown Milwaukee, WI, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Keynotes by Bruce Gagnon, Loring Wirbel, Joe Gerson, & Alice Slater. Contact: Peace Action Wisc.; Phone: (414) 964-5158; Email: pamilw@execpc.com

October

4-11 Keep Space for Peace Week. International days of protest to Stop the Militarization of Space. Organize a local protest at a space installation, embassy or representatives office. Conduct community teach-ins, meetings of religious leaders or visits to local schools. Contact: Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, P.O. Box 90083, Gainesville, FL 32607; Phone: (352) 337-9274; Web: space4peace.org; Email: globalnet@mindspring.com



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UK Investigates Low-intensity Nuclear War

Update from the Campaign Against Depleted Uranium

The prestigious British Royal Society's second depleted uranium (DU) study has found that troops who inhale or ingest "high levels" of DU could suffer kidney failure within days. The Society also found that children in DU-bombed areas face a long-term risk of cancer and heavy metal poisoning from ingesting DU.

The group's earlier report looked at DU's radiological dangers, concluding that troops in tanks who survived being hit by DU shells could double their risk of dying from lung cancer. The second report addresses the chemical and long-term environmental hazards of DU. It notes that damage to reproductive cells has been observed in laboratory studies of mice.

DU is uranium-238, the radioactive, toxic heavy metal used in armor and armor-piercing shells. It's been dubbed "depleted" by public relations officials because it's had U-235 chemically separated. Most DU is laced with plutonium and other viciously radioactive isotopes.

The Society admitted that DU could contaminate the soil, food and water of bombed areas seriously enough to harm local children.

Anti-DU campaigners assailed the report, complaining that its conclusions ignore internal Ministry of Defense (MOD) stud-

ies -- available since 1990 -- that found DU toxic, carcinogenic and a long-term environmental threat.

In reversal, British military promises inquiry

Campaigners were also skeptical of an abrupt turnaround by the MOD, which has agreed to investigate links between DU and ill health among UK troops. The reversal is a result of the Royal Society's findings, but the MOD said as usual that "DU munitions pose an actual health risk under only the most extreme of conditions." The MOD will study DU's impact on soil and marine environments and investigate safer alternatives to the use of DU.

UN finds widespread, long-term DU hazards in Baltics

A new study by the UN Environment Program (UNEP) warns that there is a danger of groundwater contamination from corroding DU ammunition, but claims that the six DU-contaminated sites that it investigated in Serbia and Montenegro -- bombed in 1999 -- do not present "immediate" health risks.

Pekka Haavisto, president of UNEP's DU Assessment Team, said he "was surprised to find DU particles still in the air two years after the conflict's end." He said decontamination was so difficult that a complete cleanup may be impossible and that the local population must be informed about DU hazards. Some 10 tons of DU were spewed across the former Yugoslavia by NATO jet fighters in 1999. -- JML

1945: A single U.S. atomic bomb destroyed Hiroshima

"Seldom, if ever, has a war ended leaving the victors with such a sense of uncertainty and fear, with such a realization that the future is obscure and that survival is not assured." -- Edward R. Murrow

2002: "The U.S. government plans to retain the potential to deploy not 1,700 to 2,200 nuclear weapons, but as many as 15,000." -- National Resources Defense Council

August 8, 9 & 10, 2002 Nagasaki Remembered

A Project ELF Peace Camp

Join activists from around the country at Project ELF in northern Wisconsin to show your opposition to continued U.S. plans and preparation for first-strike nuclear war.

Rustic camping in the beautiful Chequamegon National Forest. Nonviolence workshop, speakers, music, nonviolent direct action on Friday, August 9.

Project ELF, in northern Wisconsin, is the Navy's communication trigger for its nuclear-armed *Trident* submarines. A single *Trident* can incinerate 192 separate places.

For more information contact
Nukewatch

P.O. Box 649, Luck, WI 54853

(715) 472-4185

nukewatch@lakeland.wisconsinfoundation.org

www.luku.org
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