

NUKEWATCH PATHFINDER

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News & Information on Nuclear Weapons, Power, Waste & Nonviolent Resistance

Teaching Terrorism

Editorial

Aggressive militarization under the rubric of defense against terrorism threatens to provoke a chain reaction among nuclear nations, big and small, that, once set in motion, may prove impossible to control. No military confrontation anywhere is the world is free from this ominous and ever-present danger.

— Helen Caldicott,
The New Nuclear Danger

The U.S. government's thinly veiled threats to wage indiscriminate and even nuclear war against Iraq, "rather like the nuclear weapons at Hiroshima" -- to quote "Shock and Awe" author Harlan Ullman of the National Defense University -- have not been so publicly or thoughtlessly pronounced since the Reagan era. The President, Pentagon spokesmen and lesser policy makers have spouted the euphemisms "overwhelming force," "full force and might," "all our options," and even "the severest of consequences," with what has to be called obliviousness. It hardly seems possible that George W. Bush's reference to the "severest" consequences is understood by him to mean the radiation, firestorms and cancers of hydrogen bombs.

Perhaps the broader function of Bush's nuclear blackmail is to frighten Al Qaeda's agents, but since suicide seems to be their mode of operation, death threats are unlikely to impress them. What seems more likely is that loaded threats to use "all our options" are meant to teach the U.S. public to tolerate and accept actions taken by our own government that are intolerable if practiced by anyone else.

In all likelihood, the Pentagon and the White House have no intention of using their thermonuclear weapons. They don't need to. The non-nuclear munitions available to them are more than adequate to burn down whole cities -- as the Gulf War I and the destruction of Kabul have demonstrated. Instead, the White House's swaggering,

"safety off" cocking of the nuclear trigger is a blatant expression of globalized armed robbery.

Just as stick-up artists don't have to fire their guns to get what's in the till, but only aim at the teller and appear mad enough to shoot, the government's open threats of nuclear war teach a lesson. Namely, that the current 8,800-warhead U.S. nuclear arsenal still has a role to play in military and political life -- and must not be threatened by international appeals for its abolition.

Coming from the highest federal authorities, this lesson can hardly be missed by anyone from 8th grade civic students to gray-haired pensioners. As Justice Brandeis wrote in the *Olmstead* case, "Our government is the potent, the omnipresent teacher. For good or ill, it teaches the whole people by its example." Indeed, U.S. threats of nuclear war teach the whole world.

The example, "Fight terrorism with terror," is not one that will bring peace to urban areas, suburban neighborhoods or international relations. On the contrary, as FBI whistle blower

Coleen Rowley said in a letter to her boss Robert Mueller Feb. 26, there is no way the FBI "despite the various improvements you are implementing, will be able to stem the flood of terrorism that will likely head our way in the wake of an attack on Iraq." Even Secretary of State Colin Powell said Feb. 12, about terrorist reprisals in the event the U.S. attacks Iraq, "I'm sure there will be some blowback as you mentioned. And that is to be expected." The White House says it seeks the public's safety, but its wars and threats of war only perpetuate an endless cycle of terror.

— John LaForge

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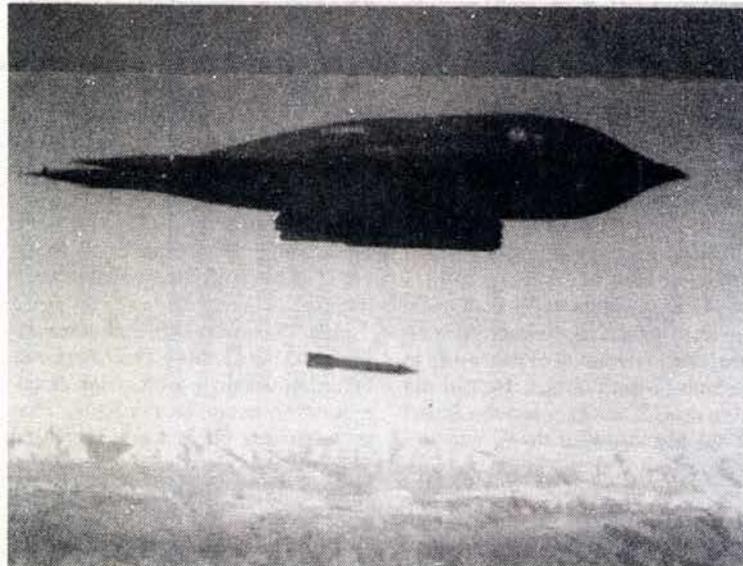


Photo by The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Jan./Feb. 2003

At Tonopah Test Range in Nevada, a heavy B-2 Stealth bomber test drops a "B61-Mod 11," which according to the Pentagon is an "earth-penetrating" nuclear weapon that can burrow into the ground before detonating.

U.S. Nuclear Threats and the Future of "Mini" Nukes

By Jerry Mechtenberg-Berrigan

*No one likes us, I don't know why
We may not be perfect, but heaven knows we try
All around, even our old friends put us down
Let's drop the Big One, see what happens*

*We give them money, but are they grateful --
No, they're spiteful and they're hateful
They don't respect us, so let's surprise 'em
We'll drop the Big One, pulverize 'em
-- Randy Newman, "Political Science" (1972)*

During a five-day campaign in February 2003, Bush Administration officials repeatedly threatened "preemptive" first use of nuclear weapons in a war against Iraq. Military analysts have kicked around the implications of such talk: Are they bluffing? Could they be serious? What about treaties?

Pundits have lately recalled how Washington has threatened to unleash its nuclear weapons in the past. Prior to the 1991 bombardment of the Persian Gulf, then-Secretary of State James Baker threatened nuclear retaliation if Iraq used chemical or biological agents. In his memoirs, Baker revealed that he was posturing, following the Cold War belief that the real power of the Bomb lies not in using it but in convincing your opponent that you might. So, the question was posed, what's the big deal?

Things have changed since 1991. David J. Smith, an arms negotiator in the first Bush Administration, said to the *Los Angeles Times* Jan. 25, 2003, that whereas previous regimes have threatened nuclear war incidentally, in times of conflict, Bush, Jr. "has set [nuclear first use] out as a general principle, and backed it up by explaining what has changed in the world."

What has changed in the world, when it comes to U.S. nuclear policy, must be understood under the umbrella of the Bush Administration's Nuclear Posture Review (NPR), released in January 2002 (see the Summer 2002 *Pathfinder*). The Congressionally mandated report openly discussed nuclear "pre-emption," revealed Washington's willingness to use H-bombs against non-nuclear states, and named seven countries now in the Pentagon's crosshairs, including Iraq.

Three elements to be explored below represent developments of the NPR: 1) Administration officials have threatened Iraq with nuclear use; 2) The U.S. Strategic Command (STRATCOM), which has functioned since 1946 only to deploy the U.S. nuclear strike force on orders from the president, had its responsibilities vastly expanded last December; 3) A conference planned for August 2003 at STRATCOM, the "Future Arsenal Panel," will re-imagine, and likely enhance greatly, U.S. "flexibility" in nuclear warfighting by exploring the future of smaller nuclear weapons, nukes "we can actually use." The entire U.S. nuclear apparatus is moving into a more aggressive posture. Will Iraq be the proving ground?

Nuclear Threats Against Iraq

On January 31, 2003, *The Washington Times* revealed the existence of National Security Presidential Directive 17 (NSPD-17), signed by President Bush the previous May. The document said, in part, "The United States [will reserve the right] to respond with overwhelming force -- including potentially nuclear weapons." On Dec. 10, 2002, the White House delivered to Congress an unclassified version of NSPD-17 called "National Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction." Prepared by Condoleezza Rice and Tom Ridge, it reiterated the above quote, but omitted the specific reference to nuclear weapons. The document charges that for other nations, weapons of mass destruction "are not weapons of last

resort, but militarily useful weapons of choice intending to overcome our nation's advantages in conventional forces."

Did you catch that little twist? Here's how Washington gets to do what it wants: 1) cook up the most atrocious, dastardly plot; 2) accuse the other guy of wanting to carry out such a plot against the U.S.; 3) foster the consequent hysteria among the U.S. public; 4) then carry out the atrocious, dastardly plot against the other guy's people -- all the while blaming the victim. At issue, of course, is not other nations' willingness to use nuclear weapons, but our own.



Cartoon by Tony Auth, Philadelphia Inquirer

The weapons talked about in an Iraq contingency are the "mini-nukes" (also dubbed "micro" or "tiny"). The most likely candidate is the B-61 Mod-11 "bunker buster," which is said to burrow 20 feet into the ground before exploding and can be fitted with nuclear warheads carrying payloads of between less than one kiloton, to over 350 kilotons. The Hiroshima bomb was 12.5 kilotons. Advocates of nuclear pre-emption have disingenuously argued that the radiation released by such a strike would be "limited."

On March 4, 2003, ten Democrat senators, concerned that the new policy "threatens the very foundation" of international arms control and the 33-year-old nonproliferation regime sent a letter to President Bush. The senators wrote, "Recent public revelations ... suggest that your administration considers nuclear weapons as a mere extension of the continuum of conventional weapons open to the United States."

Other critics complain that the war party is "lowering the bar," taking the nukes "out of their lock box," "off the shelf," placing them "on the normal options ladder," and worry that such a direction is "inappropriate where effective conventional means exist." While such arguments presume (as this writer does not) that it is acceptable to maintain a nuclear arsenal if it stays in the lock box, on the shelf, etc., the argument is correct.

STRATCOM Restructured

On Dec. 10 last year, Pentagon Secretary Donald Rumsfeld sent Mr. Bush a memorandum asking for authority to place Adm. James Ellis, Jr., the STRATCOM commander, in charge of the full range of "strategic" warfare options to combat terrorist states and organizations. The memo, quickly approved by Bush, recommended assigning "global strike, integrated missile defense, and information operations" to STRATCOM.

As William Arkin, defense analyst for *The New York Times*, observes, this seemingly concise assignment covers enormous ground, "bringing everything from the use of nuclear weapons, to non-nuclear strikes, to covert and special operations, to cyber warfare, under the purview of nuclear warriors." This is a big change, he reminds us, as STRATCOM owes its very existence to previous Cold War policymakers who considered it vital to erect "a great firewall" between nuclear and conventional forces.

cer in women who were adolescent between 1957 and 1963, when nuclear weapons testing was at its peak.

Caroline Lucas, Green Party member of parliament for SE England, said the figures gave the nuclear debate a renewed urgency. "The Government must call an immediate review of its support for the nuclear industry or bear moral, and potentially legal, responsibility for this tragic and avoidable loss of human life."

Dr. Lucas said, "The fact that existing analysis could not account for the abnormally high local levels of illnesses like childhood leukemia was more a reflection on the research methodology than the acclaimed safety of the nuclear project."

The ECRF findings challenge the conventional methods of calculating risk of the International Commission on Radiological Protection, which has been criticized as being too close to the nuclear industry.

Scientists have fiercely debated claims that radiation causes cancer clusters near factories such as Sellafield, but Ireland and Scandinavian countries have long complained about the risk.

In Brussels, the European Commission adopted two proposals for directives aimed at improving nuclear pollution standards ahead of enlargement, when countries with ailing power reactors, such as the Czech Republic, enter the EU.

Britain has previously objected to the proposals and some Government officials are concerned that EU-wide powers may interfere with Britain's nuclear industry.

One of the directives states that nuclear safety "cannot be guaranteed without making available adequate financial resources" and sets up rules on the management and use of decommissioning funds.

Furthermore, the command, whose single mission previously was to carry out the presidential order to launch missiles, has now assumed its own hair trigger decision making power. "If you can find that time-critical, key terrorist target or that weapons-of-mass-destruction stockpile, and you have minutes rather than hours or days to deal with it, how do you reach out and negate that threat to our nation half a world away?" Adm. Ellis asked in December.

The "Future Arsenal Panel"

In February, a leaked Pentagon document revealed that the Bush Administration is planning a secret meeting in August to discuss the construction of a new generation of nuclear weapons, including "mini-nukes," "bunker busters," and neutron bombs designed to destroy chemical or biological agents. The document, released to the Los Alamos Study Group, a nuclear watchdog organization, included minutes of a Jan. 10 meeting in the Pentagon in which it was determined that the "Future Arsenal Panel" will meet at STRATCOM headquarters in Omaha, Neb., the week of August 4. The National Nuclear Security Administration confirmed the authenticity of the document.

According to these minutes, the August panel will attempt to bring the nuclear arsenal in line with the Nuclear Posture Review. On the agenda are "requirements for low-yield weapons, EPWs [earth penetrating weapons], enhanced radiation weapons and 'agent defeat' weapons." "Low-yield" means warheads of less than five kilotons; EPWs are "bunker busters" which burrow into the ground before detonating and are envisioned as "agent defeat weapons." The designers are promoting so-called "low-yield" neutron bombs or "enhanced radiation weapons," which they claim can "destroy" chemical or biological weapons.

The "blending" of nuclear and conventional forces goes both ways. An air force general recently said that by replacing nuclear warheads with conventional ones on intercontinental ballistic missiles, the U.S. military would produce usable "long-range artillery" that could send destruction to any spot in the world within 30 minutes.

Of course the Pentagon can kill hundreds of thousands of Iraqis just by raining conventionally-armed cruise missiles on Baghdad, a city of five million. Indeed, it can bring Iraq -- crippled so severely by sanctions over the past 13 years -- quickly to its knees, without using nuclear warheads. The war will be wrong, even if the nuclear weapons remain in their lock box.

Either way, the Bush Administration has turned Randy Newman's parody into policy. It appears to be literally itching to drop the Big One.

Jerry Mechtenberg-Berrigan is a member of the Anathoth Community and a Nukewatch volunteer.

Medical X-rays May Join Carcinogen List

Early CT Scans Linked to Latent Cancers

USA Today, Dec. 31, 2002

The federal government has begun evaluating whether medical X-rays should be declared a carcinogen, a move experts say could reduce unnecessary exposures to radiation and force doctors to pay closer attention to the risks.

The evaluation, which will be conducted over the next year, was prompted by a request from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). The listing is being considered for the National Toxicology Program's 11th Report on Carcinogens due in 2004.

The cancer risks of radiation exposure are well documented in studies of atomic bomb survivors, but risks from medical sources are controversial and often downplayed by physicians.

"There is a lot of data showing that radiation is a carcinogen at very high levels," says G. Donald Frey of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine. "What is scientifically unsettled is whether it causes cancer at low levels. We don't really absolutely know." According to the National Cancer Institute (NCI), major organizations "agree there probably is no low-dose radiation 'threshold' for inducing cancer, i.e., no amount of radiation should be considered absolutely safe."

Christopher Portier, director of the NIEHS, says the agency is concerned that use of Computed Tomography (CT) scans, fluoroscopy, mammography in younger women and medical X-rays are exposing the public to increasingly higher levels of radiation.

Fred Mettler, a spokesman for the American College of Radiology and professor of radiology at the University of New Mexico, says radiologists are supposed to "optimize" radiation doses by exposing patients only to enough radiation to get a clear image. The risk of exposure is balanced against the medical benefit. The NCI says the use of CT in adults and children has increased seven-fold in the past 10 years. Of particular concern is exposure to unnecessarily high levels of radiation in children.

A CT scan is equal to 100 chest X-rays. For every one million children scanned with CT, an estimated 1,500 will develop cancer two decades later. Up to three million children receive CT scans each year. Children are typically given adult doses during CT scans.

In October, the NCI issued an alert to radiologists asking them to reduce CT doses to children.

Fallout & Radiation Tied to 65 Million Deaths

The Independent, Jan. 31, 2003

Pollution from nuclear energy and weapons programs up to 1989 will account for 65 million deaths, according to a European scientific committee headed by an adviser to the British Government.

Research published yesterday by the European Committee of Radiation Risk (ECRR) claims that previous figures massively underestimate the nuclear industry's impact on human life.

The ECRR is an international body of 30 independent scientists led by Dr. Chris Busby, a member of the Government's radiation risk committee and adviser to the Ministry of Defense on the use of depleted uranium.

The findings prompted immediate calls for the government to rethink its support for the nuclear industry or share responsibility for millions of deaths worldwide.

The report came as the European Commission yesterday published two new draft directives setting up the first EU-wide standards on nuclear power reactor safety, decommissioning, and the management of radioactive waste.

The study by ECRR, which was formed in Brussels in 1998, is based on a risk assessment model developed over the last five years, and uses evidence from recent discoveries in radiation biology and from human epidemiology. It found that radioactive releases up to 1989 have caused, or will eventually cause, the death of 65 million people worldwide.

It concludes that the cancer epidemic is a result of pollution from nuclear energy and of exposures to global atmospheric weapons fallout, which peaked in the period 1959-63. The research cites evidence such as the levels of breast can-

Missile Defense Fraud and Cover-up Alleged

Pentagon Demands Exemption from Testing and Oversight

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. -- Dr. Ted Postol, the preeminent physicist at the Mass. Institute of Technology and noted critic of the missile "defense" program, has proved -- contrary to Pentagon claims that the U.S. Patriot missile was a complete success -- that the Patriots shot down none of the Iraqi Scud missiles fired at Israel and Saudi Arabia in 1991. Dr. Postol's shocking "contention, at first ridiculed, in time became accepted as truth," the *New York Times* attested.

Now Dr. Postol has forced MIT to investigate allegations that its own Lincoln Laboratory -- which is deeply involved with the anti-missile program -- lied to cover up fatal flaws and corruption within the federal Missile Defense Agency. Dr. Postol says MIT itself may be hiding evidence of deliberate misconduct and that, "Potentially, this is the most serious fraud that we've seen at a great American university."

At issue is Lincoln Laboratory's study of allegations by Dr. Nira Schwartz who, as an employee of missile engineering giant TRW, complained that the company faked test results on a prototype anti-missile sensor to distinguish real warheads from decoys. Dr. Schwartz was fired by TRW but then brought suit alleging that the company and the government have conspired to cover up missile defense problems.

Dr. Postol further charges that MIT's president, Charles M. Vest, "knows that the missile defense system won't work and that his own organization has lied about its capabilities." Postol also claims that recent actions by MIT, "may indicate an attempt to conceal evidence of criminal violations of federally funded research at the MIT Lincoln Lab."

The facts may never be known because the courts have sided with the government in hiding information from the public and Congress.

In a Feb. 24 ruling, Federal Judge Ronald Lew in Los Angeles granted a government motion to dismiss Schwartz's False Claims Act lawsuit against TRW. In response to the suit, TRW subpoenaed 38 military documents the company said it needs to argue its defense, but that the government asserts include military secrets. Judge Lew agreed that national security would be endangered if the subpoenaed evidence was divulged.

Dr. Schwartz argues that the court overlooked the unclassified documents that prove her case. She has been aided by Senator Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and Representative Howard Berman, D-Calif., who wrote to Attorney General John Ashcroft Dec. 3 saying that the government "may unnecessarily prevent the facts in this case from ever being tried."

Grassley and Berman wrote that Dr. Schwartz needs no secret documents to prove TRW faked the tests, and that TRW was seeking them just to activate the "state secrets privilege." The government's invocation of the privilege resulted in the Judge's dismissal of the suit. Schwartz intends to appeal.

Missile Defense Failures To Stay Secret Faked System Could be Deployed Without Oversight

Meanwhile, the White House, faced with a string of embarrassing test failures and disclosures of fabricated or set-up tests, has proposed to exempt the entire missile defense program from the testing that is legally required of all new weapons systems prior to deployment.

Hidden in President Bush's 2004 budget is a request to amend the law designed to prevent the manufacture and fielding of new weapons that don't work. If passed, the measure would be the first ever to free a major weapons program from operational testing requirements.

Last year, the Pentagon gave the Missile Defense Agency extraordinary "managerial autonomy" and eliminated budgetary

oversight. The rules usually work to keep weapons programs on track and within budget.

With the courts working together with the Pentagon and the corporate weapons makers to keep failures a secret -- and the impossible dream covered in "defense" propaganda -- billions of dollars can continue to be wasted.

- JL

Military Budget May Top \$14,000-a-Second

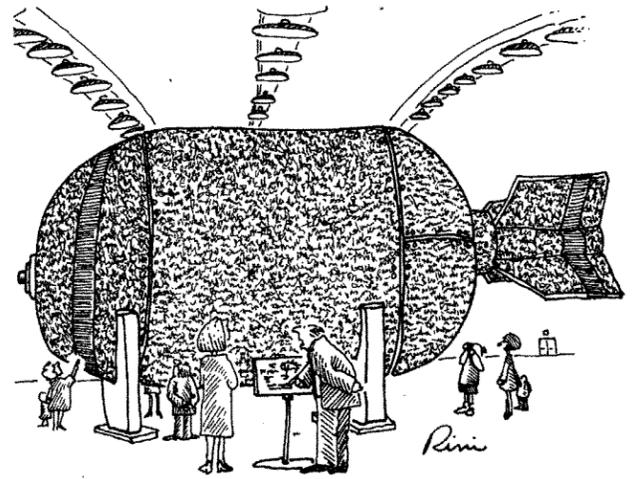
WASHINGTON, DC -- The federal budget for fiscal year 2003 was finally approved Feb. 1. It awards *over half of the citizenry's federal tax payments to the war system*. If one considers the militarization of the space program, the Bureau of Prisons, the CIA and the Department of Veteran's Affairs, the percentage goes well beyond half of all tax revenue.

Appropriations for civil government operations for the current fiscal year -- schools, national parks, highways and the like -- amount to \$397.4 billion. Direct military spending for fiscal year 2004 is set at \$399.1 billion.

The White House and Congress regularly hide and minimize the amount going to Pentagon contractors and the military by using a so-called "unified budget." The UB artificially includes the huge but independently raised and separately accounted Social Security trust fund. This trick makes military spending look like a modest percentage.

For an even more accurate idea of the actual state of U.S. militarism, you have to take the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs budget, along with NASA's \$14.5 billion and the DOE's \$35 billion, and slide them over to the Pentagon column.

Furthermore, about 26% of the federal prison population works for Prison Industries or Unicor. The inmates produce missile cable assemblies, helmets, military uniforms, decals,



"Apparently, this one has everyone's name on it."

helicopter cables and wiring for the military. Over 60% of sales from Unicor are made to the U.S. military.

"Evidloers" beware. The U.S. military's \$399.1 billion is 285 times Iraqi's \$1.4 billion military spending. Who should be afraid of whom?

The near future looks even more profitable for weapons makers. On Jan. 8, 2003, the Congressional Budget Office reported that military spending might reach \$464 billion per year between 2008 and 2014.

At this rate, we can look forward to a daily dose of military mentality that costs:

- * \$1.27 billion a day;
- * \$52.9 million an hour;
- * \$882,800 a minute; or
- * \$14,713 thousand a second!

Sources: St. Paul Pioneer Press, Feb. 2, 2003, and Center for Defense Information. See also <www.warresisters.org/piechart.htm>.

- JL

Does Love Conquer All, Even a Judge's Heart?

By Molly Mechtenberg-Berrigan

LUCK, Wisc. --After the death of Jerry's dad, Philip Berrigan, on Dec. 6 and our return to Anathoth Farm in late December, Jerry and I looked ahead to the rest of the winter. Both of us still carried the powerful experience of Phil's death with us. As we reevaluated our lives, we saw the Bush Administration in a frenzied state, spouting lies and talking of bloodshed in the detached language of "war strategy." Discouraged by a dismal winter with no snow, we also forecast a wet, muddy spring. With these factors in mind, we decided to deal with the warrants that each of us had acquired in past ELF actions. The Wisconsin warrants prescribed 60 days of jail as a result of our refusal to pay fines for crossing the line at the ELF facility.

Our decision was not an easy one. We had been away for six weeks in November and December and were looking forward to time at home. There was no shortage of work -- wood to cut, articles to write, protests to attend and organize, book shelves to build, and hopefully some snow to enjoy. Turning ourselves in would mean two months of being inside, sitting around, watching TV, eating junk and trying to make the time as meaningful and productive as possible with reading, writing, and spending time with other inmates. To confuse the matter further, we found out that doing the jail time would not eliminate the fines, and in fact the Ashland County jail, as of Jan. 1, 2003, was charging inmates \$5 a day! This news increased the difficulty of our discernment.

We struggled with our own selfish desires and fears, in the end deciding to do the jail time and to refuse to pay the fine and the \$5/day charge. Our reasons were the following: 1) The warrants for our arrests had been hanging over us for a couple years and we were ready to be rid of them; 2) Our jail time would be a statement of protest against the Bush Administration's plans to bomb and destroy a country and its people; 3) We hoped our sacrifice would generate discussion and cause people to consider what more they could do to oppose U.S. war making. Jerry's dad, Phil, was in our hearts and minds. He sacrificed 11 years of his life sitting in prison to oppose nuclear weapons and war, and we wanted to honor his memory by carrying on the struggle in a concrete way; 4) Being in jail is an experience that creates solidarity with people who are incarcerated in an unjust, degrading U.S. prison system. Hopefully there was something to be learned here.

Many family and friends hinted that we were crazy for sitting in jail for 60 days and coming out owing twice as much money. I will admit that at times I questioned myself with the same thinking. As I played the scenario over in my mind, I came to realize that I was not crazy; a judge who puts people in jail for 60 days for a \$200 fine is crazy; a judicial system that fails to take any sort of stand against an illegal and murderous weapons system is crazy. It was not until I found this perspective that I was able to go ahead confidently.

Going to jail for two months doesn't seem like much, but the amount of work it required of us was significant. There was presswork, which meant writing a statement and press release and doing radio interviews. Our decision to go in on Valentine's Day proved to be significant. In the statement that we composed, Jerry and I retold the story of Valentine, a priest who married lovers illegally after the Roman emperor banned marriages, hoping to increase his conscriptions for war. We wrote, "Like Valentine, we believe that true love can necessitate breaking the laws of a warmongering empire." The media picked it up as a perfect human-interest story, and articles appeared in several papers, including a front-page story in the *Ashland Daily Press* on February 14.

Our house trailer had to be left in good order, prepared to freeze and sit empty. Food had to be put away so the mice wouldn't have a heyday. Family and friends had to be contacted (resulting in much discussion and explaining). And most importantly, I had to be emotionally and physically prepared to adjust to a new environment, be separated from Jerry and the community, and find ways to occupy very long days.

On Valentine's Day, we made the journey to Ashland accompanied by John and Barb. It was a cold, gray day -- a perfect day to enter a sterile, gray cell. We said our goodbyes to John and Barb at the intake waiting room, and Jerry and I proceeded to sit and wait for the next hour and a half. It was a difficult wait. We visited with an inmate returning from the work release program, talked about our fears, told some jokes, and nibbled at our first jail dinner (noodles with white ham sauce, peas and bug juice). Finally the jailer came and took Jerry away. I watched through the window in the door as he was patted down and searched, not quite able to hear the discussion he was having with the jailer. Jerry glanced over and saw me, mouthing what I thought were the words "We're out" and giving me a thumbs up. I sat back down to wait and wondered what that meant, cautious about making an assumption that would not turn out to be true. Twenty minutes later when the jailer came for me I was told that the judge had vacated our warrants and we would be booked and released that night.

To say that I felt nothing but happiness when I was released would be untrue. The emotional roller coaster of the experience left me confused and unsettled -- after returning home I found it hard to get back into a regular schedule. However, Jerry and I like to view our confrontation with the system as a victory in which a previously immovable judge, for an unknown reason, was moved to change his decision. Since our surprise release, Jerry and I have been grateful for the fresh air and snow, the emerging spring (we haven't reached the muddy part yet), and the opportunity to march and rally with thousands of others in opposition to this war. Looking back, I couldn't have imagined it playing out any other way.

Photo, John LaForge



Jerry and Molly Mechtenberg-Berrigan outside the Nukewatch office on Valentines Day. Photo, John LaForge

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- Molly Mechtenberg-Berrigan is on the Nukewatch Staff



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NUCLEAR SHORTS

Missing Plutonium or Accounting Errors?

TOKAIMURA, Japan -- The Nuclear Control Institute reports that 450 pounds of plutonium -- enough to make 45 atom bombs -- is unaccounted for after 25 years of operation at the Tokaimura uranium fuel factory, site of Japan's worst radiation disaster. NCI's President Edwin Lyman said, "Until the discrepancy is resolved, one cannot rule out the possibility that the plutonium was diverted for weapons use by states or terrorists." However, Japanese officials claim there is nothing to worry about. Most of the missing plutonium was never produced, they say, as flawed output projections account for approximately 220 pounds of the plutonium. About 205 pounds is presumed to have dissolved into waste water without being measured, and 64 pounds were damaged in storage and rendered unusable. The rest may have "stuck to fuel tubes or mixed with waste water being processed to be solidified in glass and disposed of."

The allegations heighten public concerns in Japan about negligence and cover-ups in an industry plagued by recent accidents and disclosures of shoddy management, especially after the Sept. 30, 1999, Tokaimura uranium fire that killed three workers and contaminated thousands of nearby residents. Government plans call for as many as 10 new reactors by 2011. But in a major setback for the industry, an appeals court upheld the permanent shutdown of the accident-riddled Monju fast-breeder reactor, nullifying the federal government's approval for restart. The plutonium-fueled experimental reactor has been closed since a huge leak of radioactive sodium coolant in 1995.

-- *New York Times*, Jan. 28 & 29; *AP*, Feb. 1; *Nuclear Monitor*, Jan. 31, 2003

Missile Defense Tab: \$1.2 Trillion

WASHINGTON, DC -- A newly released study prepared jointly by a pair of arms control advocacy groups puts the cost for a "layered" missile defense system at nearly \$1.2 trillion through 2035.

The report, "The Full Costs of Ballistic Missile Defense," was prepared by the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation in Washington, and Economists Allied for Arms Reduction in Pearl River, N.Y. It argues that the total cost of developing, producing and supporting a full missile defense architecture is higher than supporters in the White House and on Capitol Hill may realize or admit.

The study includes cost estimates for a variety of systems based on the ground, at sea, in the air and in space.

-- *Space News International*, Jan. 13, 2003

NRC Proposes Cuts in Safety Budget

CLEVELAND -- Despite the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's lapsed oversight at the Davis-Besse power reactor in Ohio, the agency is hoping to spend less on safety inspections in the coming year. The seriousness of the Ohio incident, in which boric acid ate most of the way through the reactor lid, prompted the formation of a special task force designated to analyze the safety error. The task force concluded that, "regional staffing and resource issues challenged the NRC's ability to provide effective regulatory oversight." The proposed cuts to the NRC's safety inspection budget for fiscal year 2004 include 6.4% less for the reactor licensing program, a 0.6% cut (6 workers) for its reactor inspection division, and a 15% cut from the reactor incident response group. Congress could still reverse the cuts.

Meanwhile, the NRC wants to reduce earthquake safety standards for above ground containers built to hold radioactive waste. The containers would hold high-level radioactive fuel from power reactors until a permanent underground facility, such as the proposed Yucca Mountain site, is available. Mahendra Shah, a senior engineer for the NRC, denied any cause for concern, saying, "The possibility of any radioactive release is minimal ... and in my opinion there's no possibility at all." However, California state officials plan on opposing the new standards. Mark Johnson, a California Coastal Commission biologist, advocates adhering to the higher standards: "We don't know what is appropriate. They chose this (new standard) pretty much out of a hat." -- *North County Times* (San Diego), Jan. 27, & *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Feb. 5, 2003

Massive Uranium Waste Spill in So. Australia

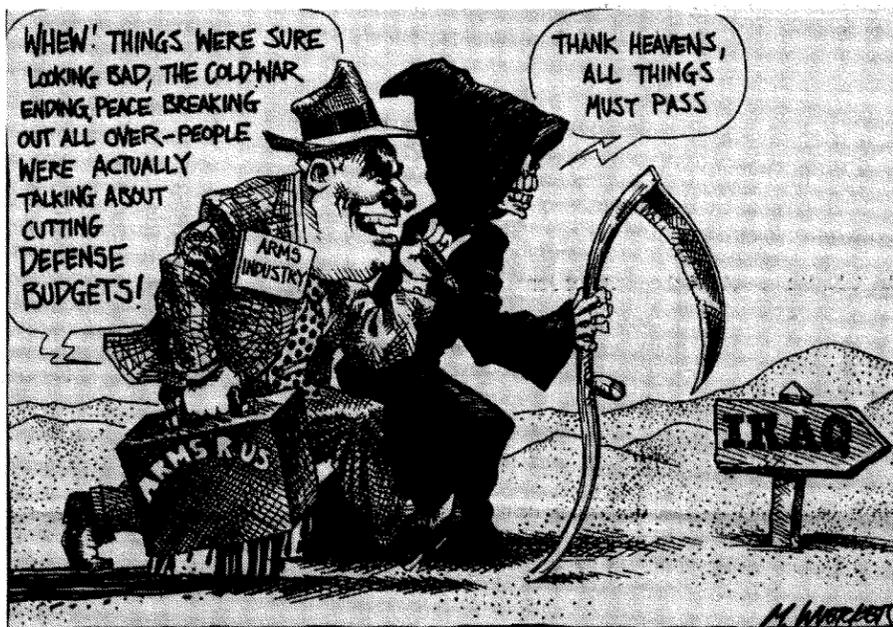
AUSTRALIA -- A valve malfunction at the Olympic Dam uranium mine in Australia resulted in a major radioactive spill Feb. 18. The incident released more than 200,000 liters (53,840 gallons) of an acidic solution that is used to separate copper and uranium from crushed ore. A spokesman for the mining company reported that the spill was detected immediately and there was no environmental or occupational health and safety risk. However, Australian Conservation Foundation spokesman David Noonan says the mining company lost control of 34 kilograms (75 lbs) of uranium, creating a considerable health and environmental hazard. "Contact with these liquids even on a

very small scale poses a significant occupational health and safety risk, and if they lose control of the material outside of the plant areas, that's a significant environmental risk as well," Noonan said. This is not the first major spill at Olympic Dam. In December 2001 more than 400,000 liters (105,500 gallons) of radioactive liquid were spilled. -- *Australian ABC News*, Feb. 20, 2003

Radiation Over the River & Through the Woods ...

SAN ONOFRE, Calif. -- Southern California Edison's plans to move a 950-ton decommissioned nuclear reactor from San Onofre to Barnwell, South Carolina, have run into serious roadblocks. Originally to be shipped by rail, the reactor -- full of low-level radioactive waste and encased in steel -- was rejected by the railroads because of liability concerns due to its extremely large size -- 38 by 15 feet, and 40 feet high. The California Department of Transportation wouldn't allow it to travel on highways because it would have to cross freeway exit bridges not built to support such heavy loads. S. Cal. Edison then came up with a route that involves transporting the reactor through the San Onofre State Park and down the beach, which would include crossing several small creeks and the Santa Margarita River. An outraged Sierra Club spokesman, Mark Massara, said, "That's the craziest idea I've ever heard ... I've looked at the route. There are landslides, creeks ... and prospects for disaster."

The reactor was originally to be shipped by barge through the Panama Canal. However, the Canal Authority denied S. Cal. Edison permission to pass due to a 150-ton maximum weight limit



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on radioactive material. The desperate utility now suggests the reactor travel 11,000 miles around the tip of South America, or west around Asia and Africa. If the reactor ever makes it to Barnwell (the only place in the country that will take it), the cost of the transport can be added to the \$500 million spent so far on decommissioning. -- *North County Times* (San Diego), Feb. 1, & *Los Angeles Times*, Feb. 14, 2003

Higher Breast Cancer Rates Near UK Reactor

BRADWELL, England -- A February 2003 report from Green Audit in the UK found that women living near the Bradwell nuclear reactor develop breast cancer at twice the national average. The study was commissioned by campaigners who live near the plant and administered by Dr. Chris Busby, scientific secretary of the European Committee on Radioactive Waste. He said that 12 women in 1,000 living in the Blackwater area near the plant would be diagnosed with breast cancer, compared to six in 1,000 nationally. Health officials immediately disputed the claim, citing two studies by the Essex Strategic Health Authority that found no detectable increases in cancer. Campaigners remain confident that the independent report investigating the opposing studies would support their view, arguing that the Health Authority used misleading statistical techniques.

The controversy comes at a key time. The Bradwell power reactor was shut down last March and the Environment Agency has given permission to British Nuclear Fuel to incinerate radioactive oils and solvents. Campaigners have vowed to "pursue all avenues" to stop the incineration.

-- *East Anglian Daily Times* (UK), Feb. 19, 2003

Radiation Accidents on Roads and Rails

CARLSBAD, NM -- Three accidents involving radioactive waste transport made the news recently. On Aug. 25, 2002, a truck carrying a container of radioactive waste was rear-ended by a drunk driver on U.S. 62 east of Carlsbad, New Mexico. The truck was on its way to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. The inner steel container leaked radiation, although it was reported that no radiation escaped into the environment. Because of the radioactive mess inside the container, workers have not been able to open it to see what went wrong. Critics have suggested that the Energy Department has not made a thorough investigation of the incident.

On Jan. 21, 2003, several boxes of radioactive sludge generated by the Y-12 West End Treatment Facility in Oak Ridge,

Tenn., shifted while enroute by rail to a waste treatment facility in Utah. Approximately 200 to 500 grams of waste sludge leaked into the rail car. A formal investigation is underway and all rail shipments from Oak Ridge have been suspended until it is complete.

On Feb. 15, 2003, a truck carrying two sealed containers of radioactive waste crashed on a bridge near Perth, England. The two vehicles involved in the accident caught fire and burned. Residents in the area were advised to stay home with their doors and windows closed, although it was later reported that no leak of radioactive material occurred.

-- *KRQE News 13*, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Jan. 27; *The Oak Ridger*, Jan. 28; & *The Sunday Herald* (Scotland), Feb. 16, 2003

Belgium to Phase-out Nuclear Power

BRUSSELS -- Belgium's lower house of parliament voted Dec. 6, 2002 to progressively phase out nuclear power between 2015 and 2025. The decision, which will have to be approved by the senate, will lead to the closure of Belgium's seven nuclear power reactors. A spokesman for assistant energy minister Olivier Deleuze said that the senate would approve the measure "unless there is a major political accident." The draft law aims to close the reactors when they are 40 years old, implying the first closure will occur February 2015 and the last in 2025. Belgium joins five European Union states planning to phase out nukes -- Germany, Spain, Sweden and the Netherlands. In all, eight EU states have nuclear power reactors.

-- RTE News Online, Dec. 6, 2003 (Radio Telefis Eireann, Irish National Public Service Broadcasting Organization)

Britain Foresees End to Nuclear Power

LONDON -- On Feb. 24, 2003, the federal government released an energy White Paper forecasting a bleak future for nuclear power. Patricia Hewitt, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said Britain could cut carbon emissions by 60% by 2050 without building more nuclear reactors. The White Paper "rules out a new generation of nuclear stations for at least five years and makes clear that further nuclear capacity may never be built if targets are met for expanding renewable sources such as wind, wave, solar and biomass." This is a drastic change from just one year ago, when 10 new nuclear power stations were being planned for Britain. However, the collapse of the nation's largest nuclear power company, British Energy, surviving only with a \$3 billion government bailout, played a large role in the reversal of the government's position on nuclear power. Barring a major change in policy, by 2025 there will be only one nuclear power reactor operating in Britain. -- *The Independent*, Feb. 26, & *Living Abroad Magazine Online*, Feb. 25, 2003

Plane Crash Risk Halts Goshute Dump Plan

WASHINGTON, DC -- On March 10, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, an arm of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, blocked a proposal by eight private utility companies to dump high-level nuclear waste on the Skull Valley Goshute Indian reservation in Utah's western desert. The board rejected the site based on the dangers posed by a nearby U.S. air force training range and the chances of its warplanes crashing into the waste. The proposed site for open-air storage of casks full of highly radioactive reactor fuel rods is directly under the airway used by the military to fly single-engine military jets (F-16s) from Hill Air Force Base to the Utah Test and Training Range. Private Fuel Storage (PFS), a consortium of environmentally racist electric utilities led by Xcel Energy of Minneapolis, formerly Northern States Power, intends to build a "temporary" storage facility on the reservation with up to 4,000 casks holding 40,000 metric tons of waste, until a permanent repository is completed. The licensing board's decision could be reconsidered if PFS can convince the air force to reroute its flights, or if it can be proved that the waste casks could withstand an F-16 crash. In the meantime, NRC commissioners will review -- and could overturn -- the board's ruling. -- *Casper (Wyoming) Star Tribune*, March 10, 2003

RESOURCES

- * **Anathoth Community Farm**, 740 Round Lake Rd., Luck, WI 58453; (715) 472-8721, Email: anathoth@lakeland.ws
- * **Center for Arms Control & Non-proliferation**, 322 4th St. NE, Washington, DC 20002, (202) 546-0795, Email: cacnp@armscontrolcenter.org; Web: www.armscontrolcenter.org/
- * **Center for Defense Information**, 1779 Mass. Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036; (800) 234-3334, Email: info@cdi.org; Web: cdi.org
- * **Citizens for Peace in Space**, P.O. Box 15, Colorado Springs, CO 80901; (719) 389-0644
- * **CommonDreams**, independent news and analysis on the web: <www.commondreams.org>
- * **Economists Allied for Arms Reduction**, 39 E Central Ave., Suite 1, Pearl River, NY 10965, (845) 620-1542, Email: ecaar@ecaar.org; Web: www.ecaar.org/
- * **Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space**, P.O. Box 90083 Gainesville, FL 32607; (352) 337-9274 <www.space4peace.org> <globalnet@mindspring.com>
- * **Jonah House**, 1301 Morland, Baltimore, MD 21216, (410) 233-6238; Email: disarmnow@erols.com
- * **Nuclear Control Institute**, 1000 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 410, Washington, DC, 20036; (202) 822-8444, Email: nci@mailback.com; Web: www.nci.org
- * **Public Citizen**, 215 Penn. Ave. SE Washington, DC 20003; (202) 454-5130; <www.citizen.org/cmep>
- * **War Resisters League**, 3669 Lafayette St., NY, NY 10012; (212) 228-0450; Email: wrl@warresisters.org; Web: www.warresisters.org

Inspection Regime Working, Evidence of Disarmament Confirmed

*U.N nuclear weapons inspector Mohammed El Baradei issued his most positive statement March 7, saying, "After three months of intrusive inspections, we have to date found no evidence or plausible indication of the revival of a nuclear weapons program in Iraq."

-- *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, March 8, 2003

*France, Germany and Russia issued Feb. 24 an informal "Memorandum" calling for at least four more months of weapons inspections in Iraq. It says in part: "... So far, the conditions for using force against Iraq are not fulfilled: While suspicions remain, no evidence has been given that Iraq still possesses weapons of mass destruction or capabilities in this field." -- *New York Times*, Feb. 25, 2003

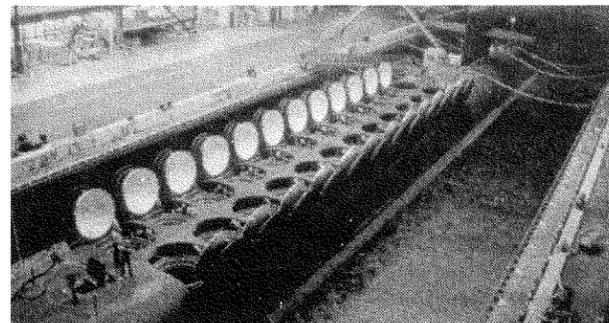
* In a lengthy briefing for UN journalists, UN chemical and biological weapons inspector Hans Blix denied or discounted four major claims made by Bush Administration officials: 1) Mobile biological labs: Blix said his inspectors had reports about the claim but no evidence. "We have never found one," he said; 2) Inspectors providing information to Iraq: Blix denied that any information had been leaked from

any of his inspectors; 3) Iraq intercepting conversations by UN inspectors; Blix said it was "impossible" that Iraq had been able to spy on UNMOVIC telephone conversations because of the high level of security of UNMOVIC communications operations; and 4) Iraq hiding weapons material inside or outside Iraq: Blix said his team had seen no evidence that Iraq had moved weapons material just before the inspectors' arrival in order to hide it. -- *New York Times*, Feb. 5, 2003

* [UN chemical and biological weapons inspector Hans] "Blix said his team had ... turned up 'no trace' of chemical or biological agents even in liquid-filled warheads." -- *New York Times*, Jan. 31, 2003

* "Inspectors have not found any conclusive evidence to support the Bush administration's charges that Mr. Hussein is holding weapons of mass destruction." -- *New York Times*, Jan. 16, 2003

* "International arms inspectors told the Security Council that they had not yet found any 'smoking gun.'" -- *New York Times*, Jan. 10, 2003



The Trident submarine *Nevada* in Bangor, Wash. with launch tubes open. War planners have suggested replacing nuclear warheads on the Tridents and atop Minuteman missiles with non-nuclear devices, calling the prospective result "long-range artillery."

Subs to Have Big Role

By Lisa Burgess, *Stars and Stripes* European Edition

ARLINGTON, Virginia -- Submarines are likely to play an important role in a war against Iraq, based on their performance so far in the war on terror.

"Our subs should be first to the fight -- in fact, they should be there long before the fight starts," Vice Adm. John Grossenbacher, the Navy's top submariner said Nov. 19.

Grossenbacher, who is responsible for all of the Navy's submarine issues, said that in the age of terrorism and "asymmetric threats," submarines have taken on a new role.

"During the Cold War, we were focused almost exclusively on anti-sub warfare," Grossenbacher said. So when the Soviet Union disappeared, "a lot of people predicted the military wouldn't need [subs]."

"But the opposite has been true," Grossenbacher said. In fact, since the war on terror began, the Navy's submarines have been "running a little harder than I would want to do over the long term," Grossenbacher said. Many of the super-secretive submarine community's activities can't be discussed.

"The submarine's value is rooted in secrecy," he said. But he mentioned intelligence collection, surveillance and reconnaissance "as some aspects of those missions," along with maritime ship interdictions.

Another mission has been missile attacks. In Afghanistan, 37% of the Tomahawk missiles used against the Taliban and Al-Qaeda were launched from U.S. and British subs, Grossenbacher said.

Grossenbacher also said that some of the CIA's Hellfire-missile equipped Predator unmanned aerial vehicles were directed from submarines. "We have already operated control of Hellfire Predators from submarines," Grossenbacher said.

In order to direct the Predator from a submarine, a specialist who knows how to "steer" the Predator electronically would have had to ride aboard the boat.

Grossenbacher declined to offer details of the submarine community's link to nonmilitary intelligence agencies. But he said that regardless of the mission, demands for the Navy's submarines "significantly exceeds the supply."

As rumors of war with Iraq grow louder, the submarine community is getting ready for a major exercise that will significantly increase the value of the fleet to war fighters. Code-named "Giant Shadow" and due to begin in the Bahamas in mid-January, the exercise will include the sea service's first-ever attempt to fire Tomahawks from a Trident nuclear submarine [probably the *USS Florida*].

During the exercise, submariners will modify one of the Trident's missile tubes to accommodate three Tomahawk cruise missiles.

Meanwhile, another exercise effort will involve launching "a huge-scale," experimental unmanned aerial vehicle, which weighs 10,000 pounds, from one of the Trident's launch tubes, Grossenbacher said.

Launching a UAV from one missile tube would be unthinkable using a conventional attack sub, whose torpedo tubes are just 21 inches in diameter, Grossenbacher said. But the Trident has 24 missile tubes, each of which is approximately 7 feet in diameter and 40 feet long.

Is Navy's Project ELF Aimed at Iraq?

Will Submarine System Help Produce "Shock and Awe"?

By John LaForge

The Navy has placed ELF receivers on all U.S. fast attack, or *Los Angeles* class submarines, so the system is not just a Trident nuclear war trigger any more. Indeed ELF was said by Navy officials in 1999 to probably have been in contact with the *Miami* and *Norfolk* -- in the Adriatic Sea -- as they fired their million-dollar Cruise missiles into Yugoslavia.

Rob Aiksnoras, of the U.S. Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport, Rhode Island, told Nukewatch then, "All the submarines have ELF receivers. The *Miami* certainly could be 'tasked' to receive messages."

In an article titled, "U.S. subs get orders out of Wisconsin station," the *Duluth News-Tribune* reported three days before the start of the U.S. bombing of Afghanistan, "If American submarines patrolling waters of the Middle East get ordered to action, it's likely that message or at least part of it, will come by way of Clam Lake in northern Wisconsin."

Today, Cruise missiles have become the weapon of choice among war planners focused on Iraq. Sydney, Australia's *Sun-Herald* reported Jan. 26, "The U.S. intends to shatter Iraq 'physically, emotionally and psychologically' by raining down on its people as many as 800 cruise missiles in two days," more than twice the number of missiles launched during the entire 40 days of the 1991 Persian Gulf bombardment.

"There will not be a safe place in Baghdad," a Pentagon official told CBS News Feb. 8, 2003. "We want them to quit, not to fight," says Harlan Ullman, author of the "shock and awe" attack plan, "so that you have this simultaneous effect -- rather like the nuclear weapons at Hiroshima - not taking days or weeks but minutes."

Mr. Ullman told the *Sun Herald*, "You also take the city down. By that I mean you get rid of their power and water. In two, three, four, five days they are physically, emotionally and psychologically exhausted."

Writing for CommonDreams, Professor Ira Chernus, who teaches Religious Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder, says, "Everyone in the White House and the Pentagon has heard of Ullman," and that "They may very well follow his plan for war in Iraq. He wants to do to Baghdad what we did to Hiroshima."

If the *Duluth News Tribune* report is accurate, the ELF system is now assisting the Tomahawk cruise missile-armed submarine's encirclement of Iraq. With at least five fast attack subs in the Persian Gulf and eastern Mediterranean, ELF as the "bell ringer" could be put to use in a way that will help the Navy convince Congress that it's function didn't end with the cold war.

Each sub can fire between 25 and 30 torpedo tube-launched Tomahawk cruise missiles. Vertical launch tubes (VLTs) aboard the *Columbia*, the *Pittsburgh* and the *Montpelier* can fire additional Tomahawks.

Today, five aircraft carrier "battle groups" are in or approaching the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf for a likely attack on Iraq. While the locations of U.S. subs are kept secret, the Los Angeles Class attack subs (listed) are officially assigned to the five battle groups now surrounding Iraq. Each sub has a crew of 130. They are:

- + The *Columbia*, carrying 12 Tomahawk VLTs, with the carrier *Constellation* battle group in the Persian Gulf.
- + The *Pittsburgh*, and the *Montpelier*, both carrying 12 Tomahawk VLTs, and both with the *Harry S. Truman* battle group -- the Navy's newest carrier -- in the eastern Mediterranean. On April 2, 1991, the *Pittsburgh* launched Tomahawk cruise missiles against Iraq.
- + The *Honolulu*, now with the carrier *Abraham Lincoln* battle group in the Arabian Sea.
- + The *Bremerton*, with the carrier *Kitty Hawk* battle group enroute from Japan to the Persian Gulf.
- + An *unknown sub* with the carrier *Roosevelt* battle group, enroute to the Mediterranean. The Navy has not identified the submarine(s) that may be accompanying the *Roosevelt*.
- + The British subs *Splendid* and *Turbulent* are also reported to be in the area, both with ELF receivers, and the *Splendid* can also launch cruise missiles.

Sources: Patrick Garret, with <globalsecurity.org> and Colin Robinson, with the Center for Defense Information



Five nuclear powered but conventionally armed fast attack submarines, memorialized on a stamp, are some of the U.S. weapons of mass destruction surrounding Iraq.

U.S. Officials Have Threatened Mass Destruction

• "The U.S. intends to shatter Iraq 'physically, emotionally and psychologically' by raining down on its people as many as 800 cruise missiles in two days. ... There will not be a safe place in Baghdad, ... rather like the nuclear weapons at Hiroshima -- not taking days or weeks but minutes. ... take the city down. By that I mean you get rid of their power and water." -- Harlan K. Ullman, Center for Strategic and International Studies and the National Defense University, quoted in *The [Sydney, Australia] Sun Herald*, Jan. 26, 2003, and CBS News, Jan. 25, 2003.

• "... we will fight with the full force and might of the United States military." -- President Bush, State of the Union speech, *The New York Times*, Jan. 29, 2003.

• One half-million people in Iraq could suffer injuries and require medical treatment if the U.S. launches a war there, a "far greater loss of life than the ... bombing campaign conducted in ... 1991" according to a UN report titled "Likely Humanitarian Scenarios." Up to 900,000 refugees could require food and shelter. -- *The New York Times*, Jan. 8, 2003.

• "The White House has again warned Iraq and other countries opposing the United States that it will use 'overwhelming force' -- including nuclear weapons -- if attacked." -- *The Guardian*, Dec. 11, 2002.

• "They're not going to believe what we do to them. It will be far worse on them this time than it was in '91." -- Army Gen. Barry McCaffrey (Ret.), -- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Dec. 23, 2002.

• "The United States ... reserves the right to ... resort to all our options" -- The National Security Presidential Directive No. 17 and Homeland Security Presidential Directive No. 4, & *The Washington Post*, December 11, 2002.

• Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, "Warned that the American attack would result in Iraqi civilian casualties." Regarding plans for launching 3,000 bombs and missiles in the first 48 hours, Gen. Myers said, "As hard as we try to limit civilian casualties, it will occur. We need to condition people that that is war. People get the idea this is

going to be antiseptic. Well, it's not going to be." -- *The New York Times*, March 5, 2003.

• "Delay and defiance will invite the severest of consequences." -- President Bush, Nov. 20, 2002, Prague.

• "A far larger bunker buster, weighing 20,000 pounds, contains incendiary chemicals that burn at more than 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit. ... thermobaric bombs and rockets ... combine a giant fireball with an intense concussion that fills spaces and can turn corners and climb floors." -- *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Nov. 28, 2002.

• The air force's 21,500 lb. Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb, its biggest non-nuclear explosive tested in Florida for the first time March 11, sends a "wave of fire and blasts hundreds of yards to kill troops, flatten trees, knock over structures ... and, in general, demoralize those far beyond the impact zone." Donald Rumsfeld of the Pentagon said, "There is a psychological component." -- *The New York Times*, March 12, 2003

Before Starting Another War

By John LaForge

The Oct. 2001 blitzkrieg of U.S. bombs and missiles into, and the subsequent military occupation of, Afghanistan was the first time the government has engaged in such a massive, unilateral, undeclared war against another country and its government without having first been attacked by that country. Indeed, the FBI and the CIA have admitted that they found no evidence in Afghanistan linking the Taliban to the Sept. 11 attacks.

The U.S. war on Afghanistan must not be forgotten or ignored in the rush to attack Iraq, Columbia, North Korea or the Philippines. As recently as Feb. 12, 2003, U.S. warplanes bombing southern Afghanistan were reported to have killed 17 civilians in Helmand Province when Green Berets, in a fire fight with "rebels," called in jets to bomb the area.

Investigations into alleged U.S. atrocities must be conducted, and reparations for war damages along with compensation for as many as 3,000 civilian deaths must be demanded. As though it were possible to put a price tag on each innocent victim, the *New York Times* editorialized that, "Afghan relief workers suggest \$10,000 per death."

The killing of civilians is a direct and inevitable result of any bombing raid, especially those conducted from the safety of 30,000 feet in the air. The papers reported Dec. 24, 2001, "American bombs damaged residential areas, especially early in the war, killing and wounding an unknown number of civilians." In the Feb. 12 attack, Pentagon Spokesman Col. Roger King reported no U.S. or coalition casualties.

The Pentagon's Donald Rumsfeld said in July 2002, that the country could "take comfort in the knowledge that this war has seen fewer tragic losses of civilian life than perhaps any war in modern history." He then refused to provide even a rough figure of civilian deaths caused by the bombing, saying "it is exceedingly difficult to get ... an estimate." The *Times* said July 8, 2002, that such estimates "range from a few hundred to a few thousand."

Secretary Rumsfeld appeared to condone attacks on civilians when he spoke March 13, 2002, about the 14 women and children killed March 6, near a village in eastern Afghanistan. He said that they were in the war zone, "of their own free will, know-

ing who they're with and who they're supporting and who they're encouraging and who they're assisting."

Military history tells a sanitized story. "There's not that image of uncaring, rampant destruction," Richard Hallion, a U.S. air force historian told the *Times* Dec. 24, 2001. "We didn't just drop bombs," said Capt. Dave Mercer, commander of the aircraft carrier *Enterprise*-based Carrier Air Wing 8. "We always had a precise aim point."

Contrary to these glowing assessments, the bombing has been indiscriminate. The *Times* reported July 21, 2002, "The Pentagon's use of overwhelming force meant that even when truly military targets were located, civilians were sometimes killed." And of U.S. military commanders, the *Times* said, "Often -- despite evidence on the ground -- they denied that civilians were killed."

Sounding enamored of the Pentagon's new weapons, a *Times* reporter crooned, "The ability to bomb targets with precision could be a potent weapon against terrorist safe houses and command centers hidden among schools, hospitals and homes in crowded urban areas, Pentagon planners said."

In Afghanistan, according to the Pentagon, nearly 60% of the 14,000 missiles, bombs and other ordnance were steered to their targets by lasers or satellites. Nevertheless, mechanical and human errors caused these hugely expensive "smart" machines to kill and maim hundreds and perhaps thousands of civilians. "Innocent civilians are killed," Mr. Rumsfeld said July 22, 2002. "This has been true ... and it remains true even in this age of advanced technology and precision-guided munitions."

"Not possible to distinguish men from women or adults from children"

The *Pathfinder* condemned the U.S. attack on Afghanistan as "illegal, immoral, known in advance to be counter-productive and even self-destructive." Here we compile a short list of reported bombing raids that could be considered crimes of war, because, 1) the laws of war apply even absent a formal declaration, and 2) the U.S. air force's own law manual forbids attacks that may harm civilians.

The air force's pamphlet, "International Law: The Conduct of Armed Conflict and Air Operations," binding on all U.S. pilots, says, "Those who plan or decide upon an attack must: ... Refrain from deciding to launch any attack which may be expected to cause inci-



Art by Sue Coe

dental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, damage to civilian objects, or a combination thereof, which would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated."

Was the 2001 bombing of Afghanistan "excessive" in relation to military advantage? An answer was given by the skipper of a U.S. aircraft carrier. Only two days after the bombing started, *The New York Times* ran this headline, "Aboard the *Enterprise*, Pilots Are Running Out of Targets to Drop Bombs On." The ship's commander said, "I don't quite know how to put this, but we're almost running out of targets." These are a few of the excesses that followed:

St. Paul Pioneer Press & New York Times, Oct. 15, 2001

✂ The Taliban allowed international journalists into the village of Karan in eastern Afghanistan and claimed that a U.S. attack there Oct. 11 killed almost 200 people.

New York Times, Oct. 28, 2001

✂ U.S. bombs smashed a UN center for land mine removal Oct. 25, killing four people.

New York Times, Oct. 28, 2001

✂ U.S. warplanes dropped eight 2,000 pound laser-guided bombs on a Red Cross complex in Kabul for a second time. It was bombed the first time Oct. 16.

New York Times, Dec. 21, 2001, *Washington Post*, July 3, 2002

✂ U.S. warplanes attacked a convoy carrying tribal elders to inaugural ceremonies in Kabul killing at least 65 people. "The survivors scrambled up a hill, toward the villages of Asmani and Pokharai, and the planes, circling back, struck both villages, destroying about 20 homes."

London Weekly Telegraph, & *New York Times*, Jan. 2, 2002

✂ More than 100 people including many women and children were killed by a devastating predawn bombardment Dec. 29, 2001, of the village of Qalaye Niazi, north of the city of Gardez in Paktia Province. A U.S. jet fighter, a B-52 and two helicopters staged the attack that villager Janat Gul told *Reuters* killed 24 members of his family.

New York Times, Feb. 12, 2002

✂ Three peasants scrounging for scrap metal were killed by a CIA "drone" attack near Zhawar Kili in eastern Afghanistan. Pentagon officials denied the drone killed peasants and called the strike "appropriate."

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 3, & *New York Times*, Feb. 23 & 27, 2002

✂ U.S. troops killed 16 people and captured 27 on Jan. 24, 2002, none of whom turned out to be Al Qaeda or Taliban. Some of the dead Afghans were found bound in plastic handcuffs, raising questions about the fighters' having been executed while in custody. Afghan survivors said the U.S. troops punched, kicked and beat them, tied their hands and feet, and blindfolded and hooded them before leading them away to helicopters.

New York Times, July 8, & Sept. 7, 2002

✂ After U.S. AC-130 gunships bombed four villages and an engagement party July 1 in Kakrak, the *Times* reported, "Around her in the orchard, there was unspeakable gore. A woman's torso had landed in one of the small almond trees. Human flesh was still hanging on the tree five days after the attack, and more putrefying remains were tangled in the branches of a pomegranate tree." Of one whole family of 25 people, not a single person was left alive. The Pentagon claimed that the AC-130 gunship attacked "after taking fire from anti-aircraft batteries." However, Pentagon investigators admitted that when ground troops arrived on the scene two hours after the attack, they found "no signs of anti-aircraft weapons or even spent cartridges or shell casings." Their report says curtly about the assault, "Unfortunately, it is also not possible to distinguish men from women or adults from children."

New York Times, Oct. 9, 2002

✂ Cluster bombs dropped by U.S. warplanes last fall killed at least 73 civilians in the village of Dah Wairan, in Kuzuz Province in northern Afghanistan, according to Maldud Malimi, supervisor of mine removal for the Halo Trust, a British nonprofit aid organization. Two of the dead were Malimi's colleagues in mine sweeping.

Minneapolis Star Tribune, Nov. 8, *New York Times*, Nov. 6, 2002

✂ A Hellfire missile fired Nov. 4 from a remote-controlled CIA Predator aircraft, covertly operated from hundreds of miles away, assassinated six suspected Al Qaeda members in Yemen, including Ahmed Hijazi, a U.S. citizen. Assassination is banned by a Presidential Executive Order, which the White House says does not apply to known Al Qaeda agents or in this case to suspects.

The Human Cost of War

"Does Tony Have Any Idea What the Flies are Like That Feed Off the Dead?"

By Robert Fisk, *The Independent*, January 26, 2003

On the road to Basra, Independent TeleVision was filming wild dogs as they tore at the corpses of the Iraqi dead. Every few seconds a ravenous beast would rip off a decaying arm and make off with it over the desert in front of us, dead fingers trailing through the sand, the remains of the burned military sleeve flapping in the wind.

"Just for the record," the cameraman said to me. Of course. Because ITV would never show such footage. The things we see -- the filth and obscenity of corpses -- cannot be shown. First because it is not "appropriate" to depict such reality on breakfast-time TV. Second because, if what we saw was shown on television, no one would ever again agree to support a war.

That was 1991. The "highway of death," they called it-- there was a parallel and much worse "highway of death" 10 miles to the east, courtesy of the U.S. Air Force and the Royal Air Force, but no one turned up to film it -- and the only true picture of the horrors we saw was the photograph of the shriveled, carbonized Iraqi soldier in his truck. This was an iconic illustration of a kind because it did represent what we had seen, when it was eventually published.

For Iraqi casualties to appear on television during that Gulf War -- there was another one between 1980 and 1988, and a third is in the offing -- it was necessary for them to have died with care, to have fallen romantically on their backs, one hand over a ruined face. Like those First World War paintings of the British dead on the Somme, Iraqis had to die benignly and without obvious wounds, without any kind of squalor, without a trace of shit or mucus or congealed blood, if they wanted to make it on to the morning news programs.

I rage at this contrivance. At Qaa in 1996, when the Israelis had shelled Lebanese refugees at the UN compound for 17 minutes, killing 106 civilians, more than half of them children, I came across a young woman holding in her arms a middle-aged man. He was dead. "My father, my father," she kept crying, cradling his face. One of his arms and one of his legs was missing -- the Israelis used proximity shells which cause amputation wounds -- but when that scene reached television screens in Europe and America, the camera was close up on the girl and the dead man's face. The amputations were not to be seen. The cause of death had been erased in the interests of good taste. It was as if the old man had died of tiredness, just turned his head upon his daughter's shoulder to die in peace.

Today, when I listen to the threats of George Bush against Iraq and the shrill moralistic warnings of Tony Blair, I wonder what they know of this terrible reality. Does George, who declined to serve his county in Vietnam, have any idea what these corpses smell like? Does Tony have the slightest conception of what the flies are like, the big bluebottles that feed on the dead of

the Middle East, and then come to settle on our faces and our notepads?

Soldiers know. I remember one British officer asking to use the BBC's satellite phone just after the liberation of Kuwait in 1991. He was talking to his family in England and I watched him carefully. "I have seen some terrible things," he said. And then he broke down, weeping and shaking and holding the phone dangling in his hand over the transmission set. Did his family have the slightest idea what he was talking about? They would not have understood by watching television.

Thus can we face the prospect of war. Our glorious, patriotic population -- albeit only about 20% in support of this particular Iraqi folly -- has been protected from the realities of violent death. But I am much struck by the number of letters in my postbag from veterans of the Second World War, men and women, all against this new Iraqi war, with an inalienable memory of torn limbs and suffering.

I remember once a wounded man in Iran, a piece of steel in his forehead, howling like an animal -- which is, of course, what we all are -- before he died; and the Palestinian boy who simply collapsed in front of me when an Israeli soldier shot him dead, quite deliberately, coldly, murderously, by throwing a stone; and the Israeli with a chair leg sticking out of her stomach outside the Sbarro pizzeria in Jerusalem after a Palestinian bomber had decided to execute the families inside; and the heaps of Iraqi dead at the Battle of Dezful in the Iran-Iraq war -- the stench of their bodies wafted through our helicopter until the mullahs aboard were sickened; and the young man showing me the thick black trail of his daughter's blood outside Algiers where armed "Islamists" had cut her throat.

But George Bush and Tony Blair and Dick Cheney and Jack Straw and all the other little warriors who are bamboozling us into war will not have to think of these vile images. For them it's about surgical strikes, collateral damage and all the other examples of war's linguistic mendacity. We are going to have a just war; we are going to liberate the people of Iraq -- some of whom we will obviously kill -- and we are going to give them democracy and protect their oil wealth and stage war crimes trials and we are going to be ever so moral, and we are going to watch our defense "experts" on TV with their bloodless sandpits and their awesome knowledge of weapons which rip off heads.

Come to think of it, I recall the head of an Albanian refugee, chopped neatly off when the Americans, ever so accidentally, bombed a refugee convoy in Kosovo in 1999 which they thought was a Serb military unit. His head lay in the long grass, bearded, eyes open, severed as if by a Tudor executioner. Months later, I learned his name and talked to the girl who was hit by the severed head during the U.S. air strike and who laid the head reverently in the grass where I found it. NATO, of course, did not apologize to the family. Nor to the girl. No one says sorry after war. No one acknowledges the truth of it. No one shows you what we see. Which is how our leaders and our betters persuade us -- still -- to go to war.

Nuclear Waste Could be Deregulated, Sold Retail

Write to protest the proposed dispersal and sale of radioactively contaminated scrap metal, etc., to smelters and commercial reuse

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has made clear its intention to increase forced radiation exposures for the general public. In the Feb. 28, 2003 Federal Register, the agency invited public comment on its proposed rule for "controlling the disposition of solid materials." That's NRC double talk for the selling of radioactive metal, paper, concrete, etc. that are from the dismantled buildings and equipment of the shuttered nuclear weapons complex. The NRC appears to be moving to allow massive quantities of nuclear wastes to be "released" to unlicensed landfills, incinerators, metal smelters and eventually to consumer products.

"The NRC's proposed rule-making is being conducted merely to accommodate the nuclear industry, which would like to make the 'release' of nuclear trash easier, cheaper and more clearly legal than it is currently," said Wenonah Hauter, director of Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy and Environment Program. "These materials, which are not labeled or tracked in any way, could end up in any variety of products, from bicycles and toys to cookware and bedsprings. The NRC needs to make the protection of public health and safety its top priority, not saving money for the nuclear industry at the public's expense."

More than 100 organizations in the U.S. and around the world have stated their opposition to such practices and have signed onto a "Statement Opposing Radioactive 'Recycling' and Deregulation of Nuclear Wastes." To read the statement and sign your organization on, go to the Public Citizen website <<http://www.citizen.org>> and do a search for the statement.

TAKE ACTION: Submit comments directly to the NRC at the following address: Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: rule-making and Adjudications Staff.

You may also provide comments via the NRC's Rule-making Web site at <<http://ruleforum.llnl.gov>> (select "Information/Comment Requests" from left-hand column).

-- Public Citizen, Feb. 28, 2003

Attack on Reactor Site "Could Kill 3.6 Million"

LONDON, England -- Over 3.5 million people could be killed by a terrorist attack on a British nuclear reactor, according to a series of three reports so alarming that even Greenpeace -- which commissioned them -- is unwilling to publish them, the London *Independent* reported in February.

The three studies concluded that terrorists could use publicly available information to find the most dangerous sites -- presumably cooling ponds that store highly radioactive waste fuel rods -- and crash aircraft into them, releasing vast amounts of radioactivity.

The reports, commissioned by Greenpeace after the Sept. 11 attacks, cover the vulnerability of Britain's nuclear installations, the possibility of an attack from the air and the consequences of the resulting disaster. They were completed at the end of 2001, but the pressure group has sat on them for over a year, "paralyzed by indecision ... unable to decide even to disclose their findings to ministers or officials to try to get them to act on the vulnerabilities they identified," the *Independent* said.

The first report by Dr. John Large, an independent nuclear expert, concludes that Britain's nuclear plants are "almost totally ill-prepared" for an airborne terrorist attack. The second, by an aviation expert, suggests that it would only take four minutes for an airliner to divert from its regular flight path to attack the most dangerous target of all, the Sellafield nuclear complex in Cumbria. And the third, by leading scientist Dr. Frank Barnaby, estimates that, at worst, 3.6 million people could die as a result.

Dr. Large told the *Independent* that he had found it "astonishingly easy" to get information on targets at Sellafield and other nuclear plants, and that he had been sent official reports identifying them without any attempt to check on his bona fides. He said: "A terrorist cell charged with attacking Sellafield could readily obtain sufficient information."

Dr. Barnaby says that 25 times as much radioactivity as was emitted by the Chernobyl disaster in 1986 would likely be released, eventually killing 1.1 million people from cancer. In the worst-case scenario, the number of deaths could reach 3.6 million.

Dr. Large was so alarmed by his findings that he asked Greenpeace not to publish his report, and stamped the words "Not for Open Publication" on every page. Shaun Birnie, a nuclear campaigner for Greenpeace, said there had been "months of debate" inside the organization about what to do with the reports, with some activists fearing that the Government might take action against it.

-- The Independent, Feb. 16, 2003



Cultivate Peace

"You can't get a rose by planting a noxious weed"

-- M.K. Gandhi

May 8, 9 & 10, 2003

16th Annual Mothers' Day Weekend Nonviolent Resistance to Project ELF

Confront the war system in your own backyard!

Thursday Evening - May 8:

7:00 p.m. Ice cream & soy dream social at the Cable Congregational UCC, Cable, WI

Friday - May 9:

Peace Gathering at Cable Congregational UCC Begins at 9:00 a.m.

Nonviolence training, Action planning, Food and Fun, Music and Art. All are welcome.

Floor space available for Thursday and Friday nights.

Saturday - May 10:

Project ELF gathering, near Clam Lake, WI

begins at 10:00 a.m.

Music and puppets, Maypole dance,

Nonviolent direct action

What to Bring: Warm clothes, sleeping bag, tent (optional), rain gear, eating utensils, water, food to share, flower bulbs and seeds, hand trowel, gardening gloves, posters and banners. Pack for camping or sleeping on church floor.

For maps & more information contact: Nukewatch, PO Box 649, Luck, WI 54853, (715) 472-4185, Nukewatch@lakeland.ws -or- Loaves & Fishes, 1712 Jefferson St., Duluth, MN 55812, (218) 724-2054, <rkilgour@yahoo.com>

Co-sponsored by: *Anathoth Community Farm * Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space * Grandmothers for Peace/Northland Chapter * Ground Zero Center for Nonviolence * Just Peace Committee of Peace Church/Duluth * Midwest Institute for Social Transformation * North American Water Office * Pax Christi/Duluth * Shundahai Network * St. Croix Valley Greens * Students Against War/UMD Chapter * Women Against Military Madness * Women Speak for a Sane World *

Featured Speakers:

Kathy Kelly, Founder of Voices in the Wilderness

Anabel Dwyer, Humanitarian law expert & Plowshares defense attorney

Failed Chernobyl Lid to be Re-covered

KIEV, Ukraine -- An international consortium led by construction and nuclear power giant Bechtel International is completing plans for what may be the largest movable structure ever built: a 20,000-ton steel shell to cover the concrete sarcophagus built over the destroyed Chernobyl Reactor. The \$768 million project is scheduled for completion in 2007.

Dmytro Hrodzynyky, who heads Ukraine's Commission on Radiation Security, said the old concrete sarcophagus -- placed over the reactor's remains in 1986 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," Hrodzynyky has warned.

In 1997, the G8 industrialized nations, along with Russia, the European Union and Ukraine, set up the Chernobyl Shelter Fund -- with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in charge. The new shelter is meant to keep out water and dust for 100 years, or for as long as it takes the Ukrainian government to designate a permanent storage facility and dispose of more than 200 tons of uranium and nearly a ton of lethally radioactive plutonium that remain inside the ruins.

Inside the shelter, robotic cranes and, where possible, workers will then begin prying apart the wreckage, removing radioactive dust from twisted girders, storing pieces of radioactive core in shielded canisters and cutting old steel into manageable lengths.

Meanwhile, workers cleaning up the remains of the destroyed reactor recklessly hauled over 300 tons of radioactively contaminated metal into radiation-free areas, threatening untold numbers of people with a new wave of radiation poisoning, Ukraine's prosecutor general charged. Svyatoslav Pyskun, the prosecutor, said workers had improperly dumped the debris in part because Ukraine lacked money to provide safe disposal sites for the continuing cleanup of the world's worst radiation catastrophe.

Sources: *New York Times*, Jan. 18, 2003, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 6, 2002 & May 14, 2001. Information: <www.chernobyl.info/en/forum>

Food Irradiation Update: Victories and Setbacks

BRUSSELS, Belgium -- The European Parliament, in a monumental vote, has decided not to bow to the World Health Organization for recommendations, information and research on food irradiation.

Despite 40 years of research indicating health hazards associated with irradiated foods, the WHO still endorses it. In February the parliament rejected extending the list of food products permitted for irradiation in the European Union (EU). The amendment, which passed in a 214-182 vote, states that the current list of spices, dried herbs and seasonings should continue to be the only approved food for irradiation until adequate scientific evidence proving its safety is conducted. The vote will set a precedent on the irradiation issue as other nations develop their own irradiation legislation.

In other good news, on Feb. 6, 2003, the school board of Point Arena, California passed a policy prohibiting the purchase or use of irradiated foods in their schools. Point Arena is now the second school district in the country to ban irradiated foods; the Berkeley Unified School District was the first. To find out how you can keep irradiated food out of your local school district, go to Public Citizen's web faxing site:

www.citizen.org/fax/background.cfm?ID=89&source=8

The world's largest fast food giant, McDonald's, has announced that they are not currently using irradiated foods and are not considering doing so.

In the not-so-good-news department, supermarket chains in new areas of the country are jumping on the bandwagon and carrying irradiated meat. **Albertsons, Giant Eagle, Harris Teeter, Schnucks, and Tops** have all announced their decision in February. **Dierberg's Markets** in Missouri and **Raley's** in California, Nevada, and New Mexico are considering it. Let them know you don't want it!

Participate in the campaign to stop the sale of irradiated beef. To find out if your local supermarket is selling irradiated meat, and to send a free fax to protest the sale of the stuff, go to the website: www.citizen.org

Express your distaste for Dairy Queen's sale of irradiated hamburgers: 1-866-793-7582.

For a sample letter to send to Congress to demand that the federal School Lunch Program not be allowed to use irradiated meats, write or email Nukewatch, P.O. Box 649, Luck, WI 54853, <nukewatch@lakeland.ws>



Photo by John LaForge

Six of the seven defendants convicted Feb. 3 were (L-R) Greg Boertje-Obed, Sr. Kathleen Uhler, Mark Engebretson, Rev. Carol Rose and Lisa Brightup. Not pictured is Mike Walli.

ELF Trespass Convictions

MADISON, Wisc. — Seven nuclear weapons abolitionists, including four from Duluth, Minn., a Mennonite minister from Wichita, Kan., and a Franciscan Sister from Brooklyn, New York, were convicted of trespass in federal district court in Madison, Feb. 3. They were cited during an August 9 protest in commemoration of the U.S. atomic attack on Nagasaki, after they crossed onto Project ELF, the Navy's nuclear submarine transmitter site near Clam Lake, Wisc.

Six of the defendants were sentenced to a \$150 fine and given until April 4 to pay. Scott Mathern-Jacobson of Duluth, who explained a recent 9-day incarceration for refusing to pay, was fined \$300.

Defendants Greg Boertje-Obed, 47, Mark Engebretson, 31, Scott Mathern-Jacobson, 31, and Michael Walli, 53, all of Duluth; Sr. Kathleen Uhler, 61, of Brooklyn, NY; and Rev. Carol Rose, 42, and Lisa Brightup, 39, both of Wichita, KS, all represented themselves without lawyers before U.S. Magistrate Stephen Crocker.

Several defendants told the Magistrate they would refuse to pay the fine. Mathern-Jacobson said, "The money I have, I have to put to better use." Walli said, "I don't believe there should be a sentence at all," and Boertje-Obed told the court he would not pay the fine or cooperate with probation rules. Crocker said he would schedule a sentencing after April 4 for anyone who refused to pay.

The controversial ELF (extremely low frequency) transmitter sends secret one-way messages to nuclear-armed Trident and Cruise missile-firing Fast Attack submarines around the world.

While not disputing the facts presented by the prosecutor, all seven testified that their action was justified by legal or religious principles of "crime prevention" and "necessity."

Engebretson testified that, "First-strike nuclear weapons are forbidden by treaty law. And I am trying to be a law-abiding citizen." Sr. Uhler followed suit saying, "St. Francis would condemn the federal crime that is being upheld by this court. I believe that I am innocent of any crime."

The Rev. Rose warned against repeating the history of silent consent. "If I don't take the most extreme nonviolent action possible, I may soon live in a land that can silence the lives of thousands or millions."

In a related matter, at least three ELF resisters will be re-sentenced April 25 in federal district court in Madison for refusing to complete court-ordered community service. Jane Hosking, Nukewatch staffer John LaForge and Jeff Leys face up to 6 months.

Europeans Hammer Government Complicity With U.S. War Plans

Four recent disarmament actions inspired by U.S./British plans to wage war against Iraq have taken place in Europe. Two occurred at the Shannon airport in Ireland, a staging post for deployment of U.S. troops and munitions headed to the Middle East.

On Jan. 28, Mary Kelly acted alone at the airport, hammering on a U.S. Navy Boeing 747 transport. She damaged the nose of the plane before she was apprehended.

Just days later, Ciaran O'Reilly, Deridre Clancy, Nuin Dunlop, Karen Fallon and Damien Moran, five members of the Catholic Worker movement in Ireland, cut through a gate at the airport and poured blood on the runway. They constructed a shrine as a memorial to Iraqi children who have been killed by U.S./British bombardment and sanctions, then hammered on the runway and painted "Pit Stop of Death" on a hangar housing a U.S. navy plane under repair (from the Mary Kelly action!).

In their Feb. 3 statement, the "Pit Stop Plowshares" drew a parallel between the war against Iraq and the mass killing in Nazi Germany. "We come to Shannon airport to carry out an act of life-affirming disarmament in place of preparations for slaughter. Like the railway tracks that ran to the town of Auschwitz, the runway at Shannon has been militarized for service on an assembly line of death."

Irish police arrested the five activists. Two still remain in jail, refusing to cooperate with conditional release, and have initiated a fast for peace and a call for mass nonviolent resistance to Irish complicity in the forthcoming war on Iraq. Updates at: www.geocities.com/pwdyson/piistop.html

On Feb. 9, Barbara Smedema smashed three satellite dishes with a sledgehammer at the NATO airbase in Vokel, The Netherlands. Her action was a protest against the presence of nuclear weapons kept there by NATO.

Then March 11, Ulla Roder, the renowned disarmament activist from the Netherlands, damaged a British Tornado jet bomber at the Leuchars airbase in Fife, Scotland. Roder went into a hangar at

Disarming Nuns Hoping for Dismissal of Charges

DENVER, Colo. -- The three Dominican Sisters who entered and damaged a Minuteman missile silo in Colorado in October appeared in the U.S. District Court in Denver for pretrial hearings on Feb. 21. The women, Jackie Hudson from Bremerton, Washington, and Carol Gilbert and Ardeth Platte from Jonah House in Baltimore, Maryland, are charged with obstruction of the national defense of the United States and injuring the property of the United States. Conviction on both counts carries a maximum sentence of 30 years and a \$500,000 fine.

The hearing concluded without rulings by Judge Robert Blackburn on the key motions, neither the prosecution's motion in limine -- that would forbid essential defense arguments -- or the defense motions to dismiss. One motion by the government would bar defendants or their attorneys from addressing the nuns as "Sister." If that motion is granted by the judge, Sr. Ardeth Platte writes that the Dominicans may choose to wear their old-fashioned habits into court.

International and criminal law expert Francis Boyle of the University of Illinois testified for the defense that any threat or use of the Minuteman III at N-8 -- a high-alert, first-strike 335-kiloton thermonuclear weapon of mass extermination -- is a crime against peace, a war crime and a crime against humanity under binding U.S. law. Professor Ved Nanda of Denver University Law School made it clear that the U.S. threat to attack Iraq was real and in violation of federal and humanitarian law.

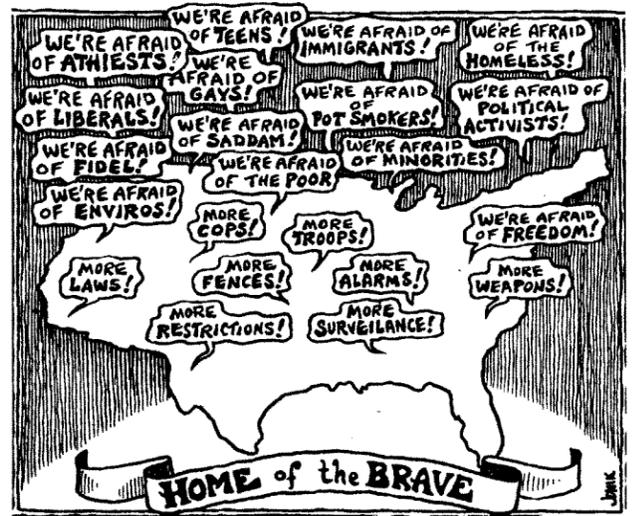
One of the highlights of the hearing testimony was their response to the question: "In your opinion did the defendants act legally on October 6 at silo N-8?" Both professors Nanda and Boyle answered without hesitation, "Yes."

Sister Platte's advisory council and expert in international law, Anabel Dwyer, was also present at the hearing. Dwyer wrote optimistically that Judge Blackburn would dismiss the charges, "The Prosecutor was visibly shaken by Professor Nanda's assertion that the U.S. has not excluded use of the nuclear Minuteman III ICBM in Iraq and that the nuns' nonviolent and symbolic action was reasonable in these very dangerous circumstances. It seems unlikely that Judge Blackburn could find that the detailed fact and law testimony are irrelevant since the nuns carefully showed their direct relevance to the elements of the crimes charged."

The three women reported being pleased with the hearing. They refuse to consider any plea bargain the prosecution offers. Platte said, "We have shown that under U.S. law the nuclear ICBM Minuteman III is obviously not 'defense-material' as defined by law. The prosecutor seems to be making an undue fuss over our legal and carefully measured methods to fulfill our current legal obligation for nuclear disarmament. Nonviolent exposure, inspection and disarmament, one nuclear weapon at a time, is the only reasonable and possible way for our great democracy to live within the rule of law."

Trial is scheduled to begin March 31 in Denver.

Citizens for Peace in Space contributed mightily to this report. *Prison support letters to the three: Clear Creek Co. Jail, Box 518, Georgetown, CO 80444.* -- MM



Z Magazine

The Personal is Political

By Barb Katt

I glance in the rearview mirror while I'm waiting to make a left turn. I see a man leaning into his windshield to give me the finger. It's my "Attack Iraq? No!" bumper sticker that has gotten to him.

Gandhi said, "It is a good thing to run into someone who has a contrary opinion and who is willing to stick to his views, because in the process it might move both of you to a clearer perception of the truth, which then itself can be tested with experience."

The man is making a left turn too. We end up at the same gas station and get out of our cars seconds apart. I try to make eye contact and I wave hello. I am ignored. Oh well, I'm not sure what I actually would have said had he responded. His anger seems to have dissipated, perhaps because we are now in closer proximity.

I manage to take none of it personally and, in fact, I understand. I have felt an aversion to George Bush and his supporters -- an anger at the aggressors along with compassion for the victims. The other driver and I have this in common: when I am feeling anger or aversion, I don't feel much like talking things out or engaging in chit chat. And since we met driving our cars into a gas station, we are co-participants in the economy of oil and its many compromises.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Here is the true meaning and value of compassion and nonviolence -- when it helps us to see the enemy's point of view, to hear his questions, to know his assessment of ourselves. For, from his point of view, we may indeed see the basic weakness of our own condition, and if we are mature, we may learn and grow and profit from the wisdom of the brothers who are called the opposition."

Both this man and I recognize that this gas station encounter is not the time to share points of view. Any movement toward a clearer perception of the truth will happen in ways unknown to the other. Perhaps he will have a thought-provoking conversation down the line. Perhaps because of my self-reflection resulting from his gesture, I will better be able to live out what Gandhi advised, -- "Be the change you want to see" -- and express my respect for those who disagree as well as those who agree. Have compassion for the aggressors as well as the victims.

How do such simple events in our day-to-day lives address the immense and weighty issue of our government seeking to go to war? Each encounter that we have tests our nonviolence in thought, word and deed. Our personal growth towards nonviolence in our lives becomes a manifestation of a different way to live together. It is exactly this -- the ability to live and exist together in mutual respect -- that we want our government leaders to model.

Barb Katt is a longtime Nukewatch boardmember and volunteer and a member of the Anathoth Community Farm.

CALENDAR

MARCH

29-30 -- Spring Action for Peace in Oak Ridge, Tenn. We are seeking all who want peace and are committed to Nonviolence. Cosponsored by the Spirit of Peace Community. Contact: Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance; (865) 483-8202; Email: orepa@stopthebombs.org; Web: stopthebombs.org/calendar/rides.html

APRIL

13-18 -- Holy Week Peace Walk. A 63-mile walk from Las Vegas to the Nevada Test Site. Contact: Nevada Desert Experience, P.O. Box 46645, Las Vegas, NV 89114; (702) 646-4814; Web: nevadadesertexperience.org

22 -- The Really Big Blockade at Faslane Sub Base in Scotland. Come and sit in the road to close Faslane peacefully and nonviolently. Contact: Trident Ploughshares; Email: big_blockade@hotmail.com; Web: tridentploughshares.org

25 -- Sentencing for ELF Resisters who have refused court-ordered community service: 1:30 p.m., in Federal District Court, 120 N. Henry St., Madison, WI. Contact Nukewatch: (715) 472-4185; Email: nukewatch@lakeland.wis

MAY

1 -- Christian Peacemaker Team Training Application Dead line. Training- July 17 - August 14 in Chicago. Contact: CPT, P.O. Box 6508, Chicago, IL 60680; (773) 277-0253; Email: cpt@igc.org

3 -- Protest NASA Launch of Mars Plutonium Missions at Kennedy Space Center, Titusville, FL - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. NASA increases radioactive space missions and increases the risk of contamination. Contact: Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, P.O. Box 90083, Gainesville, FL 32607; (352) 337-9274; Email: globalnet@mindspring.com; Web: space4peace.org

8-9-10 -- Cultivate Peace: Annual Stop Project ELF May Gathering. Celebration of Mothers' Day weekend. Plan early to attend a Saturday of speakers, music & nonviolent civil resistance to end the deadly transmission of this first-strike system. Contact: Nukewatch

16-18 -- No Star Wars: International Space Organizing Conference & Protest -- Melbourne, Australia. The 11th anniversary of the Global Network's organizing to stop major U.S. expansions of Star Wars programs in the Pacific. Contact: See May 3, above

JUNE

15 - 21 -- Second Annual Walk for Peace & Justice from Madison, Wisc. to Milwaukee. Statewide networking and fundraiser for the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice. Contact: WNPI, 122 State St., #404, Madison, WI 53703; Phone: (608) 250-9240; Email: wnpi@mindspring.com; Web: www.mindspring.com/~wnpi

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Philip Berrigan, October 5, 1923 - December 6, 2001

I die with the conviction, held since 1968 and Catonsville, that nuclear weapons are the scourge of the earth. To mine for them, to manufacture them, to deploy them, to use them — is a curse against God, the human family, and the earth itself. Because of myopic leadership, the greed for possessions, a public chained to corporate media, there has been virtually no response to these realities. — Phil Berrigan, Nov. 23, 2002

On Dec. 6, 2002, Philip Berrigan, 79, a longtime anti-nuclear activist and advocate for peace, died at Jonah House, the community he co-founded in Baltimore, Maryland. He died surrounded by family and friends two months after being diagnosed with kidney and liver cancer.

The youngest of six brothers born to Thomas Berrigan and Frida Fromhardt in northern Minnesota, Philip played semiprofessional baseball before joining the Army during World War II. He later wrote of the experience, "I was a highly skilled young killer. I thought that's what patriots do. God may tell us not to kill, but when the state calls, we must obey. We must become remorseless killers, willing to use any means to defend against the enemy."

After the war, Phil graduated from Holy Cross College and was eventually ordained a Josephite priest. In 1957 he began working in an inner-city church in New Orleans. There he came to admire and love his Black parishioners, and became forever intolerant of racism and injustice. He later wrote, "I set out to discover why my black parishioners lived in ghettos, why their children attended all-black schools, why hospitals refused black patients, why the police routinely beat and even killed black citizens."



The experience radicalized him, and he came to realize that the injustices of racism were directly tied to the evils of capitalism and militarism. He began to oppose the escalating war in Vietnam by writing, speaking, picketing and petitioning members of Congress. In 1967 and '68, Philip joined others in raiding selective service offices and destroying draft files, for which he was given six years in prison.

During his nearly 40 years of resistance to war and violence, Berrigan focused on living and working in community as a way to model the nonviolent, sustainable world he was working to create. At Jonah House, which he founded with his wife, Elizabeth McAlister, in 1973, community members live simply, pray together, share duties, and attempt to expose the violence of militarism and consumerism. The community was born out of resistance to the Vietnam War; later the focus became ongoing resistance to U.S. nuclear policy.

Community members act and support each other in Plowshares actions that symbolically disarm weapons of mass destruction, aiming to enact Isaiah's biblical prophecy "to beat swords into plowshares."

As a result of Philip's draft file and six plowshares actions, he spent 11 years in prison. He wrote, lectured and taught extensively, publishing six books, including an autobiography, *Fighting the Lamb's War* (Common Courage Press, 1996).

Philip is survived by his wife, Elizabeth McAlister; three children, Frida, Jerry and Kate; and brothers John, Jim, Jerry and Dan. He was a spiritual leader of the anti-nuclear movement, one of its most dramatic and articulate spokespersons, and will be sorely missed. At the same time, many will follow in his footsteps by practicing nonviolent resistance to nuclear weapons and war.

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