

PEACE CAUCUS

Autumn 1994 Newsletter



LAND MINES

A Worldwide Public Health Menace

Worldwide, land mines have become a weapon of choice. Governments and guerrilla armies alike are attracted to the use of land mines because they are inexpensive to buy, easy to obtain, simple to deploy and hard to detect¹. Costing on average \$3 to \$30, about 10 million land mines are produced each year by almost 100 companies and government agencies in at least 48 countries^{2,3}. Minefields placed in a couple of hours can take weeks to clear with average costs to clear one land mine ranging from \$300 to \$1,000^{4,5}.

Difficult to detect, mines kill, maim, render vast tracks of agricultural land useless and prevent refugees from returning home long after their military purpose has officially ceased. "Land mines never recognize the end of the war," notes Bobby Muller, director of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation. He further points out where land mines restrict civilian movements they also damage the economy and inhibit development⁶.

(continued on p. 6)

THE WAR IS OVER - BUT THE SPENDING GOES ON

The Center for Defense Information (CDI) reports that the United States still spends at Cold War levels for the military. Military spending appears to decline noticeably only when compared to the *peak* spending of 1989 under President Reagan.

- Change in real military spending from 1989 to 1994: -22%
- Change in real military spending from 1980 to 1994: +19%

The Clinton Administration plans to keep real military spending after 1998 at the level of 1980 — a time of great Cold War tension.

- Military spending in 1980: \$235 Billion (constant 1994 dollars)
- Clinton plan for 1999: \$232 Billion (constant 1994 dollars)

Every major weapon system conceived during the Cold War and justified as necessary to defeat the Soviet Union is protected in Clinton's budget. As of 1993, the US is still providing some sort of military aid to 49 of 68 countries in which the State Department finds serious human rights abuse.

(continued on p. 7)

Peace Caucus Program-at-a-glance

APHA Annual Meeting
Oct 31 - Nov 2, 1994

**Chemical Weapons and
Public Health**
Monday 12:30 - 2:00 pm
Capital Hilton, Continental

**Landmines: A Worldwide
Public Health Menace**
Monday 4:00 - 5:30 pm
Capital Hilton, Continental

**Teaching Health Workers
Human Rights**
Monday 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Capital Hilton, S. American A

**Public Health
Peace Activism**
Tuesday 12:30 - 2:00 pm
Radisson Barcelo,
National Gallery A

Radiation Secrets
Tuesday 2:00 - 3:30 pm
Radisson Barcelo,
National Gallery A

Genocide
Wednesday 2:00 - 3:30 pm
Capital Hilton, Ohio Room

Psychosocial Effects of War
Wednesday 4:00 - 5:30 pm
Capital Hilton, Ohio Room

**Peace Caucus Business
Meeting**
Wednesday 5:45 - 7:00 pm
Capital Hilton,
Massachusetts Room

A NUCLEAR TEST BY ANY OTHER NAME ...

As the Clinton Administration approaches the end of its second year, the outlook is mixed as regards bringing the nuclear weapons era to a close. Despite the planned reduction of U.S. and ex-Soviet nuclear arsenals envisioned in the various disarmament accords reached to date (ie., START), the U.S. and the other nuclear weapons states have resisted taking the steps necessary to counter the threat of global proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. This is a particularly urgent matter, since the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which to date has placed some constraints on the spread of nuclear weapons, is up for review in April 1995, with extension contingent on the good faith of the nuclear powers to fulfill their treaty obligations by taking concrete steps towards nuclear disarmament.

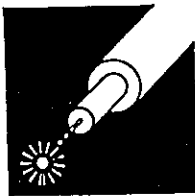
For most of the non-nuclear states who are parties to the NPT, and for the international peace community, the cessation of nuclear weapons testing by the nuclear powers, codified through the enactment of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) by the end of 1994, would be a key demonstration of the willingness of the nuclear powers to do their part to contribute to a vital non-proliferation regime. However, while the U.S. recognizes the dangers to its interests posed by the uncon-

trolled proliferation of nuclear weapons, American policy makers are loathe to abrogate the very arsenal that has placed the U.S. in a position of preeminent global power. Thus, while making halting progress towards some type of test ban, the U.S. has simultaneously been modernizing its nuclear arsenal through the development of technologies that would not necessarily violate the threshold explosive limits of a CTBT. (See illustration below)

As Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty negotiations get underway, nuclear testing by proxy is proceeding, through hi-tech simulations under the guise of "stockpile stewardship". The Department of Energy's (DOE's) funding request provides more than \$1.5 billion for nuclear weapons research, development and testing in 1995, and supports continued studies of new weapons systems. (See box on page 3)

Jackie Cabasso of Western States Legal Foundation notes that such non-nuclear testing "violates the spirit and intent of the CTBT. And if that isn't clear to the people in the United States, it's crystal clear to people outside of the United States ... that by pouring huge amounts of funding into non-nuclear testing ... Congress is, in effect, legitimizing the continued development of nuclear weapons".

AMERICA'S ARRAY OF NONNUCLEAR TESTS



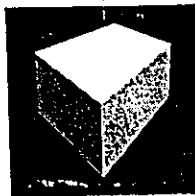
National Ignition Facility

- ▶ **COST:** \$1.1 billion.
- ▶ **SITE:** Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory or Nevada Test Site
- ▶ **DESCRIPTION:** The world's biggest laser. If funded and built it will allow nuclear weapons scientists to simulate the heat and radiation of a nuclear blast.
- ▶ **STATUS:** Energy Department is scheduled to decide Wednesday whether to proceed with project.



Dual-Axis Radiographic Hydrodynamics Testing Facility

- ▶ **COST:** \$120 million
- ▶ **SITE:** Los Alamos, N.M.
- ▶ **DESCRIPTION:** Will "freeze" X-ray images of exploding materials flying apart at almost 6,000 mph — more than 1 1/2 miles per second.
- ▶ **STATUS:** Ground-breaking was April 8. Initial structure should be finished by 1997, with additional construction later.



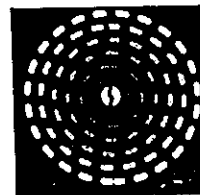
Advanced Hydrotest Facility

- ▶ **COST:** \$400 million
- ▶ **SITE:** Los Alamos or Nevada Test Site
- ▶ **DESCRIPTION:** If funded and built, it would make CAT-scan-like, 3-D "movies" of the insides of an exploding "mock" nuclear bomb.
- ▶ **STATUS:** Proposed.



Contained Firing Facility

- ▶ **COST:** \$49 million
- ▶ **SITE:** Livermore's "Site 300"
- ▶ **DESCRIPTION:** If funding continues, it will test chemical explosives used in nuclear weapons by detonating more than 150 pounds of high explosive at a time.
- ▶ **STATUS:** In preliminary design.



Hydronuclear testing

- ▶ **COST:** Undetermined
- ▶ **SITE:** Nevada Test Site
- ▶ **DESCRIPTION:** If undertaken, it would set off a miniature nuclear reaction that mimics the first moments of an atomic blast.
- ▶ **STATUS:** Under discussion.

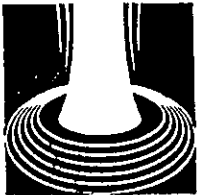
The new technologies, recently exposed in the U.S. press as being operational or near-ready throughout the DOE complex have significant military potential^{1,2,3,4}. Advanced nuclear and non-nuclear weapons are slated to be incorporated into the U.S. arsenal to bolster the evolving strategic doctrine of *counterproliferation*, announced by Defense Secretary William Perry at the end of 1993 as the practical way by which the U.S. would defend itself from the putative military threats emanating from the rest of the world.

The non-nuclear states, well aware of the gap between the stated "intentions" and the realities of U.S. policy, have resisted cooperating with the U.S. desire to extend the NPT unless there is real progress towards nuclear disarmament. Facing the threat of an uncontrolled global arms race, it is time for the U.S. to confront the dead-end nature of its reliance on military power to control a world that is propelled into an ever-increasing cycle of poverty and explosiveness. The concrete measures of enacting a CTBT, cessation of nuclear weapons development through "non-nuclear, proxy, testing", and a global ban on the production and circulation of the fissile materials (enriched uranium, plutonium) that fuel the nuclear arsenal are important steps towards international disarmament.

1.5 BILLION DOLLARS, for designing new nuclear weapons, could instead:

Clean up 15 of the worst toxic waste dumps
and
Enroll 263,000 children in Head Start
and
Fund AIDS vaccine research
and
Hire 4,200 police officers

- 1 Davidson K. *War Games, testing the nuclear future. Hidden agenda of the hush-hush labs.* San Francisco Examiner. May 22, 1994.
- 2 Davidson K. *War Games, testing the nuclear future. Hidden agenda of the hush-hush labs.* San Francisco Examiner. May 22, 1994.
- 3 Davidson K. *War Games, testing the nuclear future. A bomb maker's dream machine.* San Francisco Examiner. May 23, 1994.
- 4 Davidson K. *Laser fusion's promise fizzles.* San Francisco Examiner. June 7, 1994.
- 5 Davidson K. *Livermore Labs revised agenda.* San Francisco Examiner. June 16, 1994.



Large Blast Thermal Simulator

- **COST:** \$65 million
- **SITE:** White Sands Missile Range, N.M.
- **DESCRIPTION:** Due for completion in 1995, it will simulate the horrific shock waves and hot blasts of a nuclear bomb.
- **STATUS:** Due for completion next year.



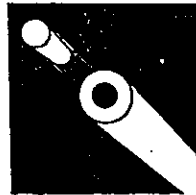
Jupiter X-Ray Simulator Facility

- **COST:** \$240 million
- **SITE:** Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque
- **DESCRIPTION:** If funded and built, it will hit military and other targets with lethal X-rays from a 600-trillion-watt "electrical pulsed power generator."
- **STATUS:** Proposed.



Decade

- **COST:** \$60 million
- **SITE:** Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn.
- **DESCRIPTION:** This would be the largest device — 10 times bigger than its predecessors — for simulating the impact of a nuclear weapons' X-rays on targets.
- **STATUS:** Due for completion in 1996.



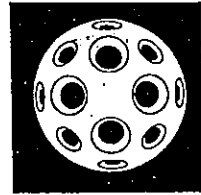
Enhanced HyperVelocity Launcher

- **COST:** Part of a six-gun facility worth at least \$20 million.
- **SITE:** Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque
- **DESCRIPTION:** This high-speed gas gun recently fired a metal plate to a speed of 10 miles per second, creating heat and pressure that help scientists double-check their computer simulations of nuclear blasts.
- **STATUS:** Operational.



Diamond-anvil cell

- **COST:** \$300,000 per year
- **SITE:** Livermore
- **DESCRIPTION:** This small laboratory device simulates aspects of a nuclear blast by compressing plutonium between two diamonds to a pressure of tens of thousands of tons per square inch, while a laser heats it to more than 7,000 degrees Fahrenheit — almost as hot as the sun's surface.
- **STATUS:** Operational.



High Explosives Applications Facility

- **COST:** \$45 million
- **SITE:** Livermore
- **DESCRIPTION:** This facility allows scientists to detonate chemical explosives — like those used to trigger nuclear blasts — within sealed chambers. The chambers are surrounded by portholes, through which high-speed cameras and sensors monitor the blasts.
- **STATUS:** Opened in 1991. Operational.

PEACE CAUCUS 1994 PROGRAM

October 31 - November 2, 1994

Monday 12:30 - 2 pm

**Capital Hilton
Continental Room**

1026 Chemical Weapons and Public Health

- President: *Victor W. Sidel, MD*
- 12:30 Issues of Proliferation *Victor W. Sidel, MD*
 - 12:50 Disposal Controversies *Beth Bowen, MD, Ed.D*
 - 1:10 Community Environmental Issues *J. Ross Vincent and
Velma M. Campbell, MD*
 - 1:30 Discussion

Monday 4:00 - 5:30 pm

**Capital Hilton
Continental Room**

1162 Landmines : A Worldwide Public Health Menace

- President: *Allen Keller, MD*
- 4:00 Epidemiological Study of Landmines in Mozambique
Paul Epstein, MD
 - 4:20 Antipersonnel Landmines and U.S. Policy *Tim Reiser*
 - 4:40 International Ban on Landmines *Susan Walker*
 - 5:00 Discussion

Co-Sponsor: Physicians for Human Rights

Monday 7:00 - 8:30 pm

**Capital Hilton
South American A**

1207 Teaching Health Workers Human Rights

- President: *Allen Keller, MD*
- 7:00 Formal Medical Education About Human Rights: Efforts at the
University of California *Vincent Iacopino, MD, PhD*
 - 7:20 Human Rights Curriculum for Khmer Health Professionals and
Students *Allen Keller, MD*
 - 7:40 Human Rights Education *Jonathan Mann, MD*
 - 8:00 Discussion

Co-Sponsor: Physicians for Human Rights

Tuesday 12:30 -2:00 pm

**Radisson Barcelo
National Gallery A**

**2108 Public Health Peace Activism:
From Margaret Sanger to the Sheraton Hotel**

- President: *Lawrence Egbert, MD, MPH*
- 12:30 What Will Nurses Do About War? Public Health Nursing and
Peace Activism in World War I *Elizabeth Temkin*
 - 12:50 Stop the Arms Bazaar *Liz McAlister*
 - 1:10 Peace Activism and APHA *Barry Levy, MD, MPH*
 - 1:30 Discussion

Tuesday 2:00 - 3:30 pm

2158 Radiation Secrets

Radisson Barcelo
National Gallery APresider: *Daryl Kimball*

- 2:00 The Medical Community's Response to Department of Energy Disclosures of Improper Human Radiation Experimentation TBA
- 3:00 Discussion



Wearing dark glasses to protect their eyes, these men watched a nuclear test in the series "Operation Greenhouse" in the spring of 1951 near Eniwetok. (Photo: US Department of Defense)

Wednesday 2:00 - 3:30 pm

3160 Genocide

Capital Hilton
Ohio RoomPresider: *H. Jack Geiger, MD*

- 2:00 A Technique for Estimating the Extent of Genocide After the Violence Has Ceased *Beth Osborne Daponte, Ph.D*
- 2:20 Failures of Reporting Genocide in Yugoslavia *H. Jack Geiger, MD*
- 2:40 State Sponsored Violence Against Women TBA
- 3:00 Discussion

Wednesday 4:00- 5:30 pm

3229 Psychosocial Effects of War

Capital Hilton
Ohio RoomPresider: *Ann Hirschman, FNP*

- 4:00 Vietnam Veterans TBA
- 4:15 Significant Predictors of Depression Among Southeast Asian Refugee Children *Julia Muennich Cowell, PhD, RN, Patricia Fox, PhD, RN, Andrew Montgomery Ph.D, Beth Marks, MS, RN*
- 4:30 Post Traumatic Stress Disorder After the Persian Gulf War *Asha M. George, MSPH, Walter Patrick, MD, Ph.D*
- 4:45 The Roads From Cairo: Where Will They Lead? *Janet Gottschalk, PhD*
- 5:00 Discussion

Wednesday 5:45 - 7:00 pm Capital Hilton, Massachusetts Room Peace Caucus Business Meeting
Everyone Welcome

Be sure to visit the Exhibition Booth jointly sponsored by the
Peace Caucus and Physicians for Social Responsibility

LAND MINES (from p. 1)

The tragic consequences of land mine use are exemplified by Cambodia's experience. Following 24 years of war in Cambodia, an estimated 4.5 million mines, or 1 mine for every two persons, remain hidden⁷. The war in Cambodia "may be the first war in history in which land mines have claimed more victims - combatants and noncombatants alike - than any other weapon", reports Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) and Asia Watch⁸. PHR reports that because of the "pervasive and indiscriminate use of land mines by the four warring factions in Cambodia", the effects of land mines on the public health of Cambodians are expected to be felt well into the next century⁹.

Each year land mines kill or maim an estimated 100,000 people¹⁰. Land mine injuries have a profound effect on individuals and the community. Medical treatment typically involves long hospitalizations and multiple operations. These costs divert funds from other pressing public health issues. Cambodia is an agrarian society where those lacking the ability to do manual work are unable to participate fully in society and may be left with little hope for their future. Physical rehabilitation is protracted and beyond the financial means of most amputees. Over his or her expected lifetime, a 10 year old child injured by a land mine in Cambodia will require 25 prostheses at a total cost of \$3,125¹¹.

An estimated 85 million uncleared land mines remain scattered in 62 countries around the world, with land mines are being placed more quickly than they are being cleared^{12,13}. The legacy of land mines threatens the lives and well being of civilians in Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Iraq, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Somalia, the former Yugoslavia and dozens of other countries. However, land mines are still not outlawed. The International Committee for the Red Cross and other non-governmental agencies are pressing for the reform of UN's Land Mines Protocol to the Inhumane Weapons Convention.

Although the United States has enacted a moratorium on the export of antipersonnel mines until 1996, the Pentagon is opposed to any limitations on the production and use of land mines, particularly the "self-destruct" type. Due to last minute lobbying by the Pentagon, the US was one of only three countries to abstain on a key vote calling for a UN conference to strengthen international limits on land mines¹⁴. It has been suggested that "self-destruct" land mines can be used effectively for military purposes while preventing the civilian deaths and morbidity associated with land mine use. However, even if these "self-destruct" land mines performed according to plan, like all land mines they are blind weapons unable to discriminate between the footsteps of a soldier and those of a child^{15, 16, 17}. The solution to the problem is to ban their production,

stockpiling, transfer and use.

An international campaign with this goal is being spearheaded by the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, Human Rights Watch, Physicians for Human Rights, the Mines Advisory Group, Handicap International, and Medico International. The American Public Health Association and the World Federation of Public Health associations are among organizations urging the international community to ban the use of land mines. The importance of a total ban on land mines is underscored by Senator Patrick Leahy, who states,

"Just as the world would never have banned other indiscriminate weapons like nerve gas without strong US support, neither will other countries give up land mines if we go on producing and using ours."¹⁸

For more information on this campaign, please attend Peace Caucus session, *Land Mines: A Public Health Menace* at APHA and contact Physicians for Human Rights, 100 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116; (617) 695-0041.

1 Stover E, Keller AS, Cobey J, Sopheap S. *Letter from Phnom Penh. The medical and social consequences of land mines in Cambodia.* JAMA August 3, 1994. Vol 272 No. 5.

2 Stover et al, 1994

3 International Ban Against Land Mines. *Facts about land mines.*

4 Stover et al, 1994.

5 Tuttle, 1994.

6 Emmons K. *Land mines torment Cambodian peasants.* San Francisco Examiner, January 2, 1994.

7 Tuttle. 1994.

8 Branigin W. *Cambodians facing deadly mine threat: mines.* Washington Post, November 22, 1991.

9 Stover et al, 1994.

10 Tuttle, 1994.

11 Stover et al, 1994.

12 Stover et al, 1994.

13 International Ban Against Land Mines.

14 Leahy PJ. *Letter to the editor, New York Times,* January 13, 1994.

15 Stover et al, 1994.

16 Milman JO. *Letter to the editor, New York Times,* January 13, 1994.

17 Isenberg D. *Letter to the editor, New York Times,* January 23, 1994.

18 Leahy PJ. *Letter to the editor, New York Times,* January 13, 1994.

JOIN THE PEACE CAUCUS

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes, I want to join the APHA Peace Caucus!

Enclosed is my check, made payable to "APHA Peace Caucus", for \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Tel _____

New Member _____

APHA Member? Yes _____

Renewal _____

No _____

Full member \$10

Contributing member \$25

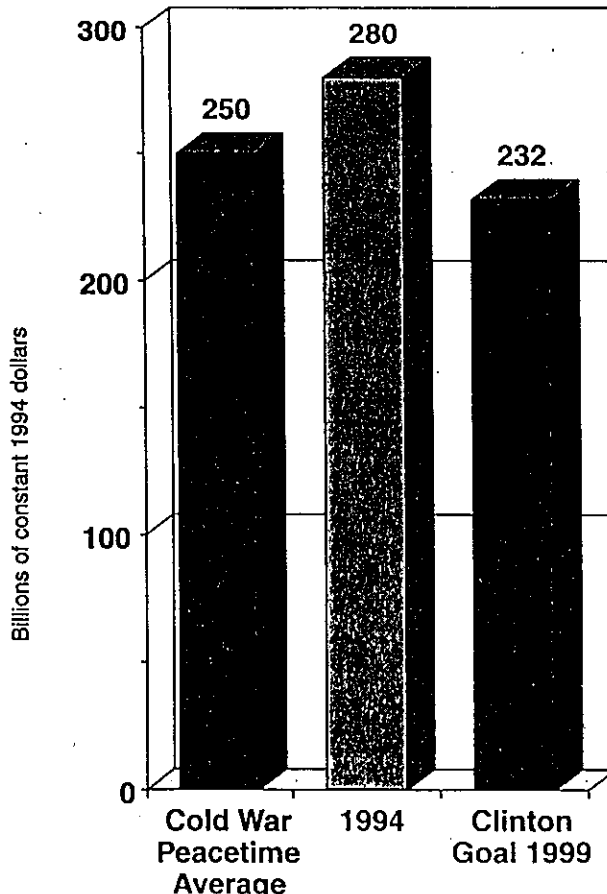
Sustaining member \$50

Return to: Peace Caucus, 2644 Sherwood Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84108

THE WAR IS OVER — BUT THE SPENDING GOES ON (from p. 1)

U.S. Annual Military Spending in Constant Dollars

The continuation of Cold War levels of military spending is graphically illustrated by the Arms Bazaar. Each year in September, the Air Force Association hosts the Arms Bazaar at the Sheraton hotel in Washington, DC. Some 100 weapons contractors peddle their newest high tech weapons to Pentagon officials, politicians, and international arms merchants at the Arms Bazaar. The Disarm Bazaar Coalition has come together to oppose this morbid marketplace. They strive to drive the hawkers from Washington DC as other groups have done in Chicago, Los Angeles, and Boston. Coalition activist Liz McAlister will speak about efforts to "Stop the Arms Bazaar" at Peace Caucus session 2108 "Public Health Activism: from Margaret Sanger to the Sheraton Hotel" at APHA on Tuesday, November 1, from 12:30 to 2:00 pm. Please join us.



1948-89 Cold War Peacetime Average excludes Korean and Vietnam War years.
 Source: DoD. Future Inflation estimates also from DoD.
 Chart prepared by Center for Defense Information.

General Colin Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

"I'm running out of demons. I'm down to Castro and Kim Il Sung."

Who Are the Enemies ?

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