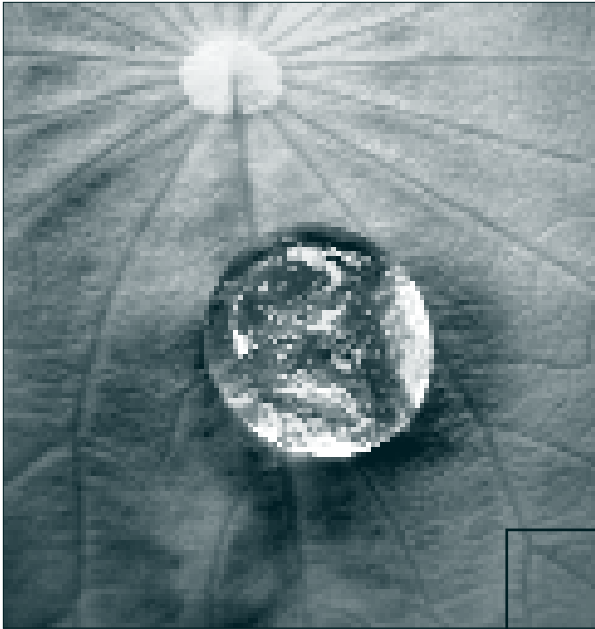


Factsheet

Read more at www.PeaceActionWest.org



Peace Action West is the region's largest and oldest lobby for a just foreign policy and smarter security.

We advocate for a foreign policy that embodies the best values of the American people. As a membership organization we foster broad-based civic activism to create a strong voice for peaceful solutions to global problems.

Through grassroots action, we work to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons, protect human rights around the world, advance U.S. spending priorities that meet the nation's real security and domestic needs, and promote resolution of international conflicts through cooperation and diplomacy.

THE FUTURE OF U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS

U.S. Nuclear Policy: Overdue for a Change

Nearly twenty years after the end of the Cold War, the US nuclear stockpile and overall nuclear policies have changed little. Approximately 5000 US weapons remain deployed, and an additional 5000 remain in reserve; meanwhile, the international community increasingly worries about the spread of illicit nuclear material and the potential for more countries to join the nuclear club.

In early 2007, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former Senator Sam Nunn, former Defense Secretary William Cohen and other former government officials called on the US to embrace the vision of a “world free of nuclear weapons”. In an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal, this group of foreign policy experts argued that the US can and should lead the international community in verifiable dismantlement of nuclear stockpiles.

Bush Administration Plans: Moving in the Wrong Direction

In a 2002 policy paper, the Bush administration explained its plan to expand the US nuclear weapons arsenal with new, so-called “useable” nuclear weapons, and outlined the possibility of using these weapons to strike a nation suspected of planning to attack the US. However, under bipartisan leadership, Congress defeated the administration’s initial attempts to fund new weapons such as the nuclear bunker buster and the Advanced Concepts program. Having learned from its defeat, the administration developed a revised strategy, arguing that our current stockpile of nuclear weapons is “unreliable” and needs to be updated.

Complex 2030 is at the heart of the Bush administration’s new proposal---a huge state-of-the-art nuclear weapons bomb factory that could crank out hundreds of new warheads a year. It is a complete overhaul of the US nuclear weapons complex-in the wrong direction. This factory, a nuclear “Bombplex”, would manufacture the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW), a new nuclear weapon.

Problems with Complex 2030 and the Reliable Replacement Warhead

It’s a waste of taxpayer money. At the request of Congress, an independent panel of scientific experts completed a thorough study of the lifetime of the plutonium pits in existing US warheads (the “triggers” of nuclear weapons). This panel announced that these pits have a lifetime of at least 100 years, more than double the Department of Energy’s (DOE) original estimate of 45 years.

The Bush administration and DOE have argued that Complex 2030 and the revamp of our weapons system is necessary because our weapons are aging and becoming unreliable. This new independent study proves them wrong, and undercuts the need for this factory and weapons program, slated to cost at least \$150 billion.

It sends the wrong message to the rest of the world. If the US builds a new generation of nuclear weapons, it will undercut the international community's work to stop the spread of nuclear weapons in Iran and North Korea. If the US continues down the path of nuclear weapons development, surely other countries will follow our example.

It violates our international commitments. When the US signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, it agreed to negotiate in good faith to get rid of nuclear weapons. Complex 2030 diverts attention from the need to begin planning further nuclear reductions and the eventual elimination of our nuclear stockpile.

Experts Agree: No New Nukes

Former Senator Sam Nunn

“On the RRW itself, if Congress gives a green light to this program in our current world environment, I believe that this will be: Misunderstood by our allies; exploited by our adversaries; complicate our work to prevent the spread and use of nuclear weapons, including the essential steps I have outlined this morning; and make resolution of the Iran and North Korea challenges all the more difficult.”

— *In testimony before House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, 3/28/07*

Robert Gallucci, former assistant secretary of state

“It's passing strange...we would propose to improve confidence in the stockpile by replacing well-tested warheads with warheads that haven't been tested.

If the U.S. military later determines that testing is necessary, 'you would have the worst of worlds' — uncertain warheads, abrogation of the test-ban treaty and serious damage to U.S. efforts to convince other nations that nuclear weapons aren't necessary.”

— *From “U.S. Congress, Nuke Builders Debate Proposed Warhead” Defense News 3/26/07*

Read more from the experts here: -

http://www.peaceactionwest.org/issues/usnuclearweapons/experts_speak_out_on_new_nukes/

You Can Make a Difference

Together, we can stop the Bush administration's new nuclear weapons plans and push the United States to move in the direction of reducing our current stockpile. Please take action to encourage Congress to oppose these reckless programs:

Learn more about this, take action, and sign up for ealerts on our website: www.PeaceActionWest.org

What You Can Do



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