

Obama and Nobel Prize Laureates seek Nuclear-Ban

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«On January 20, 2009, twelve Nobel Prize Laureates and a former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations addressed US President Barack Obama. In an open letter they remind President Obama of his promise to seek a world in which there are no nuclear weapons. Pointing to the shortfalls of the existing international regime for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, Sir Harold Kroto (Nobel Prize for Chemistry), Member of the Advisory Board of INES, and his co-signers remind Barack Obama of the recent suggestion by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to use the existing Model Nuclear Weapons Convention as a starting point for the path into a nuclear weapons free world.» (INES, INESAP, 20.1.2009)

The notabilities write: «Much hope has been created in your nation and in the entire world due to your election as President of the United States of America. We are inspired by your public statements, that you will seek a world in which there are no nuclear weapons.»

Here is a summary with the main points of this letter:

The dangers of existing nuclear arsenals:

- More than 100,000 Hiroshima bomb equivalents.
- Dramatically increasing risks of nuclear proliferation to other states and terrorists.
- Nuclear weapons are inherently inhumane because they can cause the extinction of all humankind.
- Nuclear weapons have long-term genetic and ecological effects.

The objectives:

- To achieve a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World, enshrined in international law.
- Start negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention now.
- A total ban.
- Complete disarmament of nuclear weapons in all its aspects.
- Strict and effective international control.
- Guarantee the irreversibility of disarmament.
- Non-accessibility to proliferation-prone nuclear materials and technology.

Statements:

«North Korea and other countries should not be given an excuse by the nuclear-weapons-based rationale of those countries that still maintain nuclear arsenals and doctrines.»

«We recall the Advisory Opinion issued on 8 July 1996 by the International Court of Justice on the illegality of the use or the threat of use of nuclear weapons.»

«UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon gave a landmark speech, entitled "The United Nations and Security in a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World", in which he called on governments to fulfil their nuclear disarmament obligations (24.10.2008, United Nations Day).»

This open letter to the President of the United States of America Barack Obama at the same time explains important reasons presented to the Swiss government in a recent SolarPeace-Letter, in which full public information regarding the «Climatic Change caused by Radioactivity» had been requested as a necessary prerequisite for an abolition of all nuclear power plants, which in turn is a necessary step to realise a lasting abolition of all nuclear weapons.

(see extract on right side)

Request for public information regarding radioactivity and its solution

Extract from a letter to the Swiss government:
(SolarPeace.ch, 1.12.2008)

Please inform the population of Switzerland regarding the «Climatic Change caused by Radioactivity»:

- A nuclear power plant produces each day the same amount of radioactivity than 4 nuclear bombs the size of Hiroshima!
- The 5 Swiss nuclear power plants contain radioactivity approximately the size of 10'000 Hiroshima nuclear bombs! This in the production of 2 years.
- The usual Swiss mix of electricity contains an average of 40% nuclear power, in the canton of Zurich it is even 79% nuclear power, and causes accordingly large amounts of radioactivity.

This inconceivable amount of radioactivity – this «Climatic Change caused by Radioactivity» – threatens and destroys the foundations of life for our and all future generations. The physical half-lives are completely irrelevant, as they are eternal from a human perspective. Also irrelevant is the calculated probability for accidents, as the potential for damage is far too gigantic. The nuclear physicist Garwin says: «Reactor accidents ... too horrible to think about.» A trustworthy banker would advice: «We do not buy these shares» and insurances don't cover this risk anyway.

Upon the election of Barack Obama, it was the German politician Hans Dietrich Genscher, who reminded strongly and multiple times to the global top priority: **The complete abolition of all nuclear weapons!**

Beside the financial crises and despite the «Climatic Change caused by CO₂», we should not forget this. And we shouldn't forget as well, that this – the abolition of all nuclear weapons – finally is only possible together with the abolition of all nuclear power plants, therefore the switch to Natural Power (electricity from renewable energies) is a pre-requisite. The nuclear conflict in Iran is one but not the only example of this undividable relation between nuclear weapons and nuclear power. The change in Washington reveals global opportunities, however we need to use and support them actively.

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