



Nuclear Weapons Free Zones (NWFZ)

The untold story of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation ...




Brief historical context ...

- Positivist Philosophy
- Concurrent with industrial revolution
- The scientific evolution of implements of war
- Nuclear bombs ... the ultimate weapon
- NPT Treaty



Nuclear Weapons ...

- Nuclear Age began in 1945
- First use of nuclear bombs in Japan: Hiroshima & Nagasaki
- Current estimates: 25,000 warheads
- US and Russia = 90% of stockpile
- Cold War proliferation
- Détente and M.A.D.



NPT (Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty)

- Negotiated in 1968
- Nuclear Weapons States (US, France, England, Russia and China)
- Non-Nuclear Weapons States (the rest of the world)
- Undeclared (de facto) NWS = India, Pakistan and Israel



Three Pillars of NPT (Article VI)

- 1. Disarmament by Nuclear weapons states
- 2. Non-Proliferation
- 3. Allow for peaceful uses



Compliance?

- NWS have reneged on their promise to dismantle their weapons
- Between 1970 and 2000, the NPT has been affirmed every five years
- Instead of dismantling, current development of smaller strategic weapons



Current escalation and proliferation

- Nuclear Posture Review (2002) by the U.S. administration
- announced the development of “more usable” nuclear weapons
- targeted certain countries
- An increase in nuclear testing
- Pre-emptive strikes



Mayors for Peace

- Vision 2020
- Nuclear Weapons Convention by 2010
- Begin dismantling of nuclear weapons by 2015
- Total elimination of nuclear weapons by 2020



NWF Zones defined:

- A geographical area where signatory states commit to maintaining the zone wholly free of military weapons both in their own interests and for the good of mankind.



Existing & proposed NWFZs

- The Antarctic Treaty of 1959
- Treaty of Tlatelolco (1967 LANNWFZ)
- Treaty of Raratonga (1996 SPNWFZ)
- Treaty of Pelindaba (1996, ANWFZ)
- Treaty of Bangkok (SEANWFZ)
- Proposed zone in Central and Eastern Asia
- Northeast Asia (Limited NWFZ)



NWFZ Policies

- may not acquire or assist others in obtaining them
- must apply and submit to IAEA safeguards and export control restrictions
- may not permit stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory



Policies (continued)

- may not permit testing of nuclear weapons on their territory
- may not dump radioactive waste or radioactive matter at sea within the zone
- AND commit
- not to test nuclear weapons inside the zone




and ...

- neither use nor threaten to use nuclear weapons against treaty
- or protocol party inside the territory/territorial sea of a party
- neither station, develop, or manufacture nuclear weapons inside any of their possessions inside the zone



NWFZs and Precautionary Principles

- NWFZ safeguard the safety of individual states and the planet as a whole
- Deployment of nuclear weapons is inconsistent with international law and are a threat to “the peaceful use of the seas and oceans”




Use of nuclear weapons is a crime

- International Court of Justice:
“the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law and ... the principles and rules of humanitarian law.”



Continuing ...

- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992) states that nations have a right to take a precautionary approach to potential environmental disasters. Therefore, there is no right to “innocent” passage if it involves transport or deployment of nuclear weapons.



Real possibility of nuclear accidents

- Sinkings
- Collisions at sea
- Submarines have run aground
- Major reactor accidents (ten)
- Major fires on US and Russian nuclear submarines
- Nuclear waste transport accidents



Unilateral vs multilateral negotiations

- Security Council veto power by NWS inhibit significant policies
- Unilateral decisions by non-NWS have resulted in more immediate practical nuclear disarmament steps in regions around the world
- Should still continue on multi-lateral front



In conclusion ...

- Quarantine regions from nuclear weapons is exactly the point
- Neither physical contagion, nor
- Moral contagion of being in any way supportive of nuclear weapons use, development, etc.
- Have waited 60 years for disarmament



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