



E-ACTION REPORT

PEACE DEMANDS ACTION

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AMPLIFYING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE AND PEACE

Peace Action works to create a unified call to link environmental issues with war through grassroots action and in the highest levels of international governance.

The Peace Action International Committee is a recognized NGO representative at the United Nations. We have 8 representatives that meet with UN officials in committee and in the General Assembly. At the NGO conference last September, entitled "Climate Change: How it Impacts Us All", our own Chuck Hitchcock served as Co-Chair at the mid-day conference. The result of this conference was a declaration of NGO action to impede climate change over the next year. Of the 8,000 people attending this conference over 1,750 from over 62 countries signed onto this declaration.

Peace Action Board Member, Judy Lerner, was a panelist at a mid-day meeting dealing with the Culture of Peace. She spoke of the recent "No War No Warming" movement and how peace groups are organizing against climate change.

The Student Peace Action Network (SPAN) has been the most active

INTELLIGENCE REPORT CONFIRMS IRAN HAS NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM

Peace Action has been demanding the CIA create a National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) on Iran since February of last year.

arm of our network in No War No Warming. Jonathan Williams, SPAN coordinator, was an integral part of the planning process for October 22nd regional demonstrations as well as individual actions of civil disobedience in Washington, DC. That day he took action with hundreds of other activists who risked injury and arrest to bring attention to this important issue.

A significant aspect of "No War No Warming" was training. SPAN invests in the future of peace activism by providing resources and training to young activists all over the country. Joining with the environmental, religious, and human rights communities in this coordinated action allowed SPAN to amplify the voice of youth to a new level.

Peace Action is committed to working with diverse groups of activists because we believe the consequences of war infect all aspects of our global community. Climate change is a pivotal topic in our message of peace - recognizing that we cannot combat climate change until we address militarism.

Finally, our government confirmed what Iran has always maintained: they are not currently developing nuclear weapons; they have not had a nuclear weapons program since 2003; and they are no less rational about the development and use of nuclear weapons than any other state.

The response from the right came in the form of a demand for a new report. Unlike the run-up to the invasion of Iraq, when Dick Cheney went, in secret, to the CIA searching for the right intelligence to justify what was already planned, this time the hawks are unabashedly demanding a brand new report, presumably one that once again justifies what is already planned.

The global abolition of nuclear weapons remains a high priority for Peace Action. US efforts to develop new, smaller (i.e. usable) nukes legitimizes nuclear weapons in the eyes of the world. US hypocrisy – a "do as I say and not as I do" policy - is a primary obstacle to global nuclear disarmament.

Rather than threatening Iran, the US should be talking directly with Iran and setting the proper example by ending its nuclear weapons forever programs.

The intelligence provided by this NIE is an important step in ending the U.S. nuclear hypocrisy and preventing war with Iran. We, as a nation, will not be led into war by a reckless dictatorial administration.

RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL POISONING AIR

The Sierra Club has documented the environmental impact of depleted uranium (DU) weapons since the first Gulf war in 1991. "An extremely dense metal made from low-level radioactive waste, DU is principally used by the United States, but also by other countries such as Britain, in defensive military armor, conventional munitions, and some missiles" DU munitions are used primarily because that density enables them to penetrate tank armor.

Chemical waste accompanies the production and use of all weapons; but DU weapons are particularly hazardous for three reasons. According to the UK Gulf Veterans Association, "the inhalation of these fine dust particles represents a health hazard that was known to the military as long ago as 1974." The radioactive material infiltrates our global ecosystem and remains there for hundreds of years; moving through oceanic currents and the atmosphere poisoning soil and water tables thousands of miles away. In humans, exposure to high levels of DU particles leads to an increased risk of miscarriage, kidney disease, cancer, malformed fetuses and congenital diseases.

The U.S. government has not released any information on the prevalence of DU munitions and other nuclear materials used in either of the Iraq wars, the NATO military action in former Yugoslavia, or Afghanistan, making it impossible to track and clean-up the nuclear waste. Studies by the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) found that DU will contaminate the environment – including drinking water and indoor air – up to seven years after its use. As part of our mission to promote nuclear abolition Peace Action condemns the use of DU and other nuclear material in any circumstance but, especially, as a weapon. We work to expose the nuclear hypocrisy perpetuated by the Bush administration while addressing the human toll brought on by the use of nuclear material around the globe.

- ◆ **WATER CONTAMINATION AND STOPPAGE IS COMMON WHEN PIPES ARE DESTROYED.** IN AFGHANISTAN THIS RESULTED IN BACTERIAL CONTAMINATION OF THE WATER SYSTEM THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THIS ISSUE IS COMPOUNDED IN AFGHANISTAN'S AGRARIAN ECONOMY.
- ◆ **WASTE MANAGEMENT AND SANITATION ARE A SECOND THOUGHT IN AREAS WHERE WAR RAGES FOR DECADES.** EVEN IN A POST CONFLICT SITUATION THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO MANAGE AND DISPOSE OF WASTE PRODUCTS ARE DIFFICULT TO PROCURE.
- ◆ **MILITARY MACHINERY IS A LARGE CONTRIBUTOR TO DEFORESTATION AND CARBON EMISSIONS.** MILITARY MANEUVERS DISRUPT ECOSYSTEMS AS THEY CAUSE EROSION, LIMIT NATURAL WATER FILTRATION, AND IMPACT FOOD PRODUCTION.
- ◆ **AIR QUALITY IS AT HIGH RISK IN WAR ZONES.** THE INEVITABLE AIR HAZARDS INCLUDE SMOKE FROM EXPLOSIONS, DUST STORMS FROM DEFORESTED AREAS, AND DEPLETED URANIUM LEFT FROM MUNITIONS FIRE.

OIL CONSUMPTION: A HARBINGER TO WAR

At Peace Action we believe that war is not a suitable response to conflict. The unfortunate truth is most in Washington do not subscribe to this proposition. Our culture of militarism and consumption has cost millions of lives in war and is a keystone issue in the fight against global warming.

The military is one of the largest single contributors of CO² emissions from the U.S. The 133 million barrels of oil used by the military in 2005 is equivalent to the total oil consumption of Sweden. More than costing billions in tax payer dollars, this overwhelming consumption is not sustainable.

The U.S. alone consumed 7.6 billion barrels of oil in 2004. U.S. consumption for 2025 is estimated

to exceed 9 billion barrels. The Association for Study of Peak Oil & Gas argues the peak annual oil production will occur within the next few years, with global demand overcoming production soon after. Western Asia holds 65% of global oil reserves. As prices and demand rise, control of this contentious area, and its natural resources, is the real reason Bush went to war.

We've seen this in action over the past 20 years in the first Iraq war, the recent threats of war with Iran, and U.S. military aid to states like Saudi Arabia. Now, under a false connection between Iraq and the 'war on terror', the Bush family has once again tried to justify their oil grab to the American people.

The facts speak for themselves. Through corporately constructed oil laws and the designation of a puppet government Bush and his cronies at Exxon (Chevron, Texaco, ect.) have ensured they will make billions from our out-of-control consumption of oil.

Peace Action has spent the past 5 years speaking out against this occupation for oil and we've made major inroads into preventing another war with Iran. Now we take this issue further by challenging the American public to connect our oil consumption to our militaristic global hegemony. We must curb our dependency on oil and invest in sustainable, environmentally friendly alternatives if we can ever hope for peace.