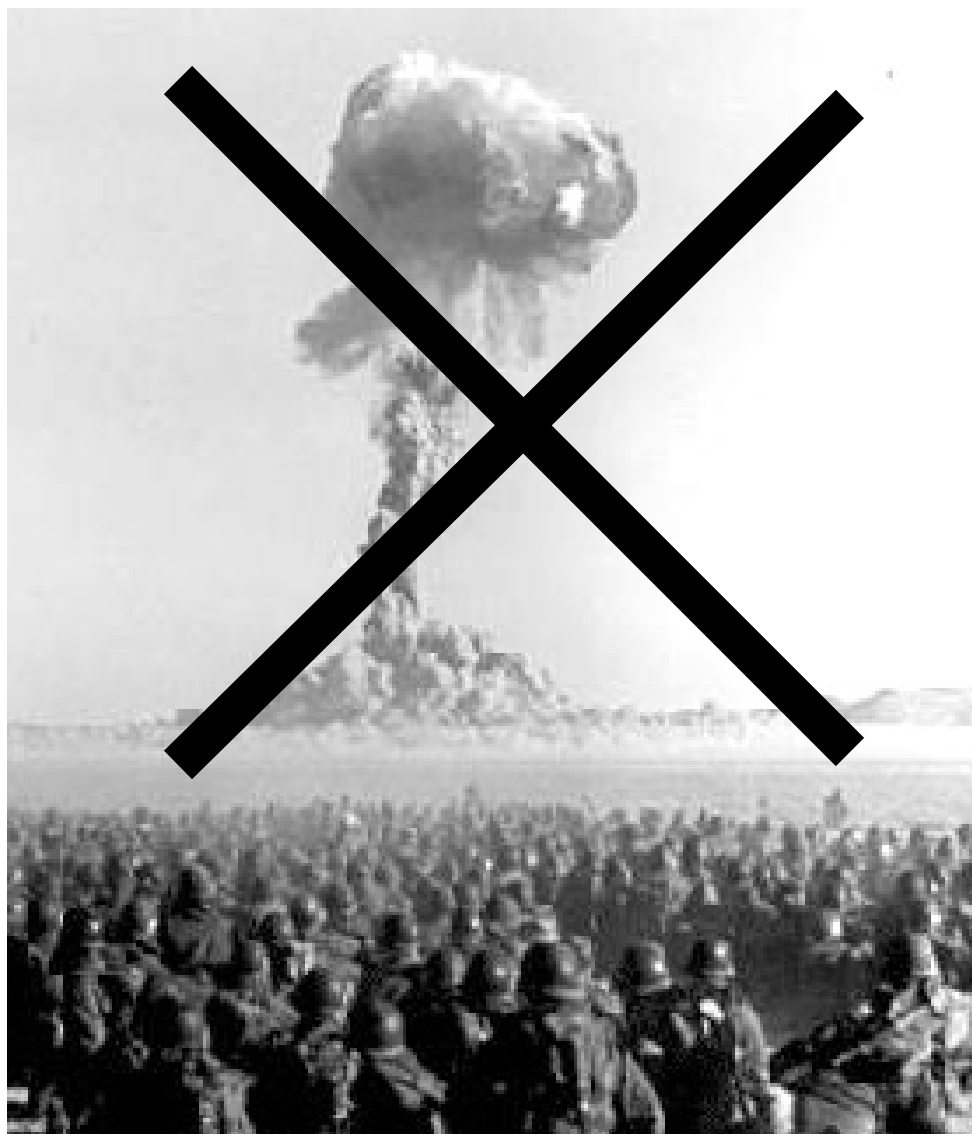




May 2009
Volume 5 Issue 2

www.peaceactioncleveland.org

Cleveland Peace Action



No Nukes on the Planet.
Now is the time.

In this issue: The End of Nuclear Weapons,
Middle East Challenges, You and Congress.

commentary

Israel's Shifting Rational for Attacking Iran

Norman Robbins Case for Peace

The recent analysis of possible Israeli attack on Iran (Plain Dealer 4-13-09) implied that Iran is "going nuclear", meaning developing nuclear weapons. Both US intelligence, recently reaffirmed by Admiral Blair, and the International Atomic Energy Agency have found no evidence for a **current** weapons program. So David Samuels' cited shifting rationale for an Israeli attack: it is now simply to take down a major Israeli enemy - forget about whether the threat is nuclear or not. Sounds a bit like Bush's hyped WMD as the excuse for invading Iraq.

Secretary Gates and military experts have said that an attack on Iran would be a disaster for the US. Therefore, a negotiated solution of Iran's nuclear program seems in order. In fact, American experts (such as Ambassador Pickering), who have had unofficial contacts with Iran, as well as top Iranian scientists and spokesmen have already outlined a solution. It would consist of limited uranium enrichment or international supervision, a guaranteed outside supply, and intrusive inspections to verify the absence of a weapons program. This would address the "scant" intelligence mentioned in the analysis. Let's hope that reason prevails, not a rush to another unnecessary war.

Volunteer Corner

Finally the warm weather is here. With it come many opportunities to help Cleveland Peace Action.

Thursday June 11 is our Summer Supper Seminar. We need help planning and setting up. It's also a chance to have a great meal and spend time with friends.

Cindy Sheehan will be in Cleveland in July. To make this event an success we need planners, folks who are willing to help with PR, pass out fliers and people to be on hand the evening of the event.

Please take the time to make five phone calls. We always need people who are willing to make calls about upcoming events. We work hard to put the events together, but need help making sure people are aware and have all the information.

Consider joining one of our committees. With the change in the political landscape came a sigh of relief, but our work continues. Most committees require only a couple hours a month and are a way to do meaningful high-impact work.

High-school and College Students: Peace action wants you to be involved. Spend some time over the summer break getting to know us. We are a great organization to do your school service hours for.

If you don't see anything above that interests you, give me a call and tell me what does.

Elizabeth Schiros Volunteer Coordinator 216.231.4245

An activist's letter from the front

FEET TO THE FIRE! WE WANT PEACE!

Sixth Anniversary Of The Iraq War

M J Muser Cleveland Peace Action

Last March, I joined other Cleveland peace activists in a March of the Dead, sponsored by the North-east Ohio Anti-War Coalition. Parading around the warehouse entertainment district, we all wore stark white masks, representing the faces of the dead. We joined up for a veritable feast provided by Cleveland Food Not Bombs in the Old Stone Church. Excellent inspiration and good vibrations were provided by some of Cleveland's most talented musical stars. Afterwards the group filled up a bus and headed to D.C. to join in the first major protest since the election of President Obama.

In Washington, the Cleveland contingent, still in their white masks, joined demonstrators from all over the USA. Our beautiful banner was large and read "Feet To The Fire! We Want Peace!" On one side of it we carried a peace flag and on the other an earth flag. When I looked behind me during the march across the Potomac, I saw a sea of young people stretched out across the bridge, all fired up, jumping, drumming, shouting "Hell no - We won't go - We won't fight for Texaco". "Jump Up-Jump Down - There's an Antiwar Movement in this Town".

I got the strong feeling that there is truly hope in the world today. The youth on this country's campuses are on the move! Some of the huge colorful banners they carried read "Books Not Bombs" and "Occupation Is a Crime". Flags from countries under attack draped mock coffins that activists carried to present at the war profiteers corporate headquarters.

A pitiful handful of counter-protesters stood at the beginning of the march route with their usual "Support The Troops" and "You Are All Traitors" and "Love It Or Leave It" signs. It looks like their numbers have dwindled down next to nothing. We shut them down easily by chanting "Support the Troops - That's a Lie - You Don't Care If Soldiers Die".

Overall it was a good solid march with a noisy throng of about 10,000 American patriots.

Cut off sign-up form below and mail in with your donation .

I want to be a Peace Action Member/Supporter!



Peace Action is a true national grassroots movement. A donation in any amount qualifies you as a Member/Supporter of Cleveland Peace Action and National Peace Action for the calendar year.

Recommended donation levels: Patron \$100+ • Family \$50 • Individual \$40 • Student \$20 • Limited Income \$10 • Other \$ ____ •

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Phone _____ Email _____

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Pay by check—Make checks payable to "Cleveland Peace Action" or to be tax-deductible, to "Cleveland Peace Action Education Fund"

Donate via credit card at Cleveland Peace Action's secure website:
www.peaceactioncleveland.org

Please complete the signup form, enclose with your check, and mail to: **TREASURER, Cleveland Peace Action, 10916 Magnolia Drive, Cleveland, Ohio 44106**

Nukes and Treaties

Bill Fickinger Cleveland Peace Action

Will nuclear bombs ever be used again? Some country might use them if another nation threatened them. Or some terrorist group might set off a nuke to advance a cause they are willing to kill and die for.

Why are there so many nukes around? The US used two nukes to end the war against Japan. Then they built some more, a lot more. The USSR built some to keep up with the US, England and France built some, mainly because they could. Others followed: China mistrusted both the US and the USSR, India mistrusted China, Pakistan mistrusted India. Israel believes that nukes protect it from its neighbors, and North Korea thinks nukes will make them important. A paranoiac chain-reaction. These are the nine nuclear powers.

So how many warheads are there now? There were about 65 thousand twenty years ago. Today the total number of "active" nukes is about ten thousand. About 90% of them are split between the US and Russia.

How did such a big reduction happen? It started in 1970 with the non-proliferation treaty (NPT). The non-nuclear powers promised to stay non-nuclear. The five main nuclear powers promised to reduce their nukes to zero, but no date was set. Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea refused to sign.

So how can the process be speeded up? A big step was taken in 1996: the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). If passed, the nuclear powers would cut back on their programs; no other country could start one up.

Is the CTBT in effect? Sort of. The US signed it, but the Senate failed to ratify it ten years ago, so it is still on hold. Even though the US is stalling, there have been no tests anywhere for the past ten years, except a probably failed test by North Korea in 2006.

Can't a country pretend they are just working on nuclear production of electricity? Nuclear reactors and nuclear bombs both need enriched uranium. But bombs need much higher enrichment than reactors.

What exactly is enrichment? There are two kinds of uranium in nature, U238 and U235. Enrichment takes the natural mixture (less than 1% U235) and removes some of the U238. Nuclear power reactors need 5% U235 and bombs need 90% U235. With monitoring by an international organization, all high enrichment can be stopped.

Wouldn't it be easier to just stop all enrichment, and forget nuclear power production?

That would be great, but some countries are already more than 50% nuclear. Dozens of other countries are now looking at nuclear. Nuclear power production is not likely to go away soon.

Who's going to monitor the enrichment plants?

The NPT specifies that each ratifier must allow inspections of all facilities by the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). If the world is going to allow nuclear reactors but forbid nuclear weapons, every nation must sign on.

Is it true that plutonium can be used instead of U235 in bombs, and that plutonium is created inside nuclear reactors? Yes, both are true. So IAEA inspections must extend to all nuclear power reactors as well as all enrichment facilities. In fact, there is a better and less complicated way. The IAEA and others have proposed that all enrichment should be limited to a handful of internationally operated facilities. These would be required by international law to sell LEU (low enriched uranium) to all countries asking for it.

So what should the Obama administration and Congress do?

- * Ratify the CTBT which has been hung up in the Senate for ten years.
- * Support the IAEA and the idea that all enrichment should be confined to a few facilities.
- * Shut down all plutonium production.
- * Continue to work with Russia in reducing the weapons stockpiles.
- * Make use of the expertise and facilities of the weapons labs in the development of solar, wind, geothermal energy.

CPA Advocacy Report - Nina McLellan Cleveland Peace Action

Hope for progress on nuclear weapons abolition

Francis Chiappa participated in national PA strategy conference call.

Supplemental Budget Request for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

The President has submitted his \$83.4 billion supplemental budget request to Congress. Note that about \$7 billion of the request is non-military foreign assistance.

Peace Action asks Congress to:

1. Vote against Supplemental. (It is important to know what else is in it and figure out how we might best be able to move money around);
2. De-escalate troop levels in Afghanistan and reject the idea that there is a military solution to the region's problems;
3. Immediately stop military activities that indiscriminately impact civilians such as air and drone strikes;
4. Rapidly withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan;
5. Commit to negotiated diplomatic talks involving all major regional players, including major international peace-keeping bodies;
6. Address the real needs of Afghans, which include health-care, clean water, education, and security.

We urged support for the Kerry-Lugar amendment to restore funding for the International Affairs Budget to the level requested by the President. Passed.

We communicated with all our representatives to support this legislation to prevent accidental war by establishing a framework for handling incidents involving ships and nuclear submarines in the crowded Straits of Hormuz. Passed.

Congressional Score Card

National Peace Action recently released it's Congressional Scorecard for 2008. You can view the scorecard at: <http://www.Peace-Action.org/scorecard08> . The scoring was based on five key Senate votes and 10 votes in the House, all having to do with Iraq, nuclear weapons, military spending, and the use of torture.

We congratulate and thank Senator Sherrod Brown and Congressman Dennis Kucinich for consistently scoring high on their voting record - both getting 100% for 2008. We thank Representative Betty Sutton who scored 80%. We are sorry to report that Senator Voinovich scored 20% and Representative Steve LaTourette 10%. You might like to communicate your thanks and opinions to our elected leaders (see page 6).

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Cindy Sheehan coming to NEOhio in July. Keep posted.

DOBAMA PRESENTS
THE CLEVELAND PLAYS,
THEATRE PART 2:

DREAM/HOME

A World Premiere by Sarah Morton

Directed by Sonya Robbins

May 15 - June 7

presented at the Cleveland Play House,
Brooks Theatre • 8500 Euclid Ave., Cleveland

***Home ownership is part of the American
Dream. But what happens when
that dream is no longer affordable?***

When a Cleveland school teacher takes on a mortgage she can't afford, it sets off a surprising and devastating chain of events within the community. In a series of poetic and provocative monologues, DREAM/HOME tells the stories of nine Cleveland residents dealing with the repercussions of the foreclosure crisis, and its impact on their neighborhoods, their families, and their dreams for the future.

Join us for talk backs following Friday and Saturday night performances.

As a conversational prelude, a Community Forum on the housing crisis and its impact on our community will be held at the City Club of Cleveland on Wednesday, May 6, at 5:00 p.m., reception at 4:30 p.m., free of charge.

**Tickets: 216.932.3396
or dobama.org**

Report from the Middle East Peace Committee

As of press time for this CPA newsletter, the first two in our Lakewood Middle East Peace series have already happened. However, you still have time to make it to the 3rd in the series, on Wed. May 27th. At 6:30 PM. Address: 15425 Detroit Rd.

This program should prove to be quite interesting. Similar to the 3rd program in our Cleveland Hts. Library series, we will have a panel of diverse representatives from various communities and backgrounds. This panel will follow the viewing of a brief (15-20 minutes) segment from CBS 60 Minutes on the 2-state solution to the Middle East Crisis. Please attend and tell others who would be interested.

The first in the series (March 25th) was an open, facilitated dialogue discussion following the viewing of the film: "Searching for Peace in the Middle East" - produced by the Foundation for Middle East Peace. The 2nd in the series (April 29th) was a presentation by Doug and Mary Ann Kerr on the history of the middle east region, leading up to the relevant issues separating peoples from each other and peace today.



The purpose of Cleveland Peace Action is to identify issues which relate to world peace and to bring them to your attention. This succeeds only when you learn useful facts and **follow up** by passing on the word to others, especially to members of Congress. It is impossible to respond to all the pleas that we get in our letterboxes and emails to "contact your Congressperson" - but that's the best way to get things done. Promise yourself to follow-through on one out of five, or ten? It works.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD WHERE IT COUNTS

One easy number: **Congressional Switchboard** at 202-224-3121 (9-5 EST)

Sen. Sherrod Brown: <http://brown.senate.gov/> 202-224-2315, 216-522-7272, 1301 E. 9th St., Suite 1710, Cleve. 44114

Sen. George Voinovich: <http://voinovich.senate.gov/> 202-224-3353, 216-522-7095, 1240 E. 9th St., Rm. 2955, Cleveland 44114

Rep. Marcia Fudge, <http://www.house.gov/fudge/> 202-224-6665 fax 202-224-5301,
216-522-4900, 3645 Warrensville Center Rd., Suite 204, Shaker Heights 44122

Rep. Steve LaTourette: <http://www.house.gov/latourette/> 202-225-5731, 440-352-3939, 1 Victoria Place, Rm. 320,
Painesville 44077

Rep. Dennis Kucinich: <http://kucinich.house.gov/> 202-225-5871, 216-228-8850, 14400 Detroit Ave., Lakewood 44107

Rep. Betty Sutton: <http://sutton.house.gov/> 202-225-3401, 330-865-8450, 11655 West Market St., Rm. 435, Akron 44313;
440-245-5350, 205 West 20th St., Rm. 230, Lorain 44052

Plain Dealer: The Editor, The Plain Dealer, 1801 Superior Rd., Cleveland OH 44114
<http://www.cleveland.com/plaindealer/lettertoeditor.ssf>

To send **easy pre-written email messages** on key issues and legislation, go to www.peace-action.org,
or to Friends Committee on National Legislation, www.capwiz.com/fconl/home

For more information: www.peaceactioncleveland.org

Letter to the Editor

THE PROBLEM: WHAT IF WE WIN?

In the March 2009 edition of the Cleveland Peace Action Newsletter, Judy Botwin opines that if President Obama proceeds with his threatened invasion of Afghanistan, we might lose militarily, as the Soviets did, for a number of reasons. But what would be just as bad, or even worse, is the possibility that we could “win” by forcing that country to accept our imperial rule. Most people in Afghanistan oppose the continuous American presence in their country. This will inevitably lead to the situation we now face in Iraq: a discontented populace who want us out, much physical destruction, many innocent people killed, and our own sons and daughters killed for nothing. Such terrible means can only be used to justify a greater end: the defense of our own national security. This is not the case in the Afghanistan debacle and military action is not the solution.

Thomas D. Weiler

How do we get there?

US Scientists on how to get rid of nuclear weapons

(Main points from an April 2009 report from two leading American scientific organizations, The Federation of American Scientists and the Natural Resources Defense Council.)

The US must find a way to abandon the almost five-decade-long central mission for its nuclear forces. This mission continues to be the capability to destroy an enemy’s military forces, its weapons, its command and control facilities and its key leaders. The current rationale for maintaining a nuclear arsenal no longer exists. To get future reductions in the number of weapons, we have to redefine their mission.

President Obama has already taken the first step by stating America’s commitment to a world without nuclear weapons. We point out the need for radical changes in US policies to make disarmament a reality. The sole mission must be deterrence, meaning the certain capability to retaliate if any nation was unwise enough to use nuclear weapons against us or certain allies. This is *minimal* deterrence. All requirements for war planners to achieve an advantage in a nuclear exchange or limit damage to ourselves will disappear, leaving in place only the most basic mission of a sure retaliatory response. Here is how the US should proceed:

- * A minimal deterrence mission should be adopted as a transitional step on a path to zero nuclear weapons.
- * The President must be continuously engaged in this transformation. Otherwise, presidential intentions can be co-opted and diffused.
- * The President should publicly announce the changed role for nuclear weapons and the new types of targets.
- * The process should lead to engagement with the other nuclear powers towards a global goal of abolition.
- * No new weapons need to be built nor an extensive new complex created.

To learn more about the report, please visit: <http://www.fas.org>.

Mother's Day Event Sunday May 10th at the Gandhi Statue
MLK Jr. Blvd. near St. Clair

Middle East Peace Program
May 27th 6:30 PM
at Lakewood Library

Mark Your Calendars



Summer Supper Seminar
Thursday June 11th at Peace House
10916 Magnolia Dr.

Parade the Circle June 13th in
University Circle near Museum of Natural History

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volunteer@peaceactioncleveland.org and request to be removed from our mailing list. Thank you.

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World Peace
We have to work for it