IN THIS ISSUE

NMD Increases Risk of Nuclear War
page 3

Bombs Away
page 4

Dialogue with Decision-Makers
page 5

Middle Powers Initiative: MPI Program Update
page 6

IPPNW-Germany
page 7

IPPNW 12-Country Campaign to Block NMD
page 8

Putting Pressure on the US to Sign the Mine Ban Treaty
page 11

Small Progress on Small Arms
page 12

Medical Student News
page 14

IPPNW Nominates Foro de Ermua for Nobel Peace Prize
page 15

And much more . . .
1985 Nobel Peace Prize

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Ngo's Urge Governments to “Cast a Wide Net” in Controlling Small Arms

Statement by Cathey Falvo, MD, MPH, at the Small Arms PrepComm. 18 January, 2001

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• Summit for Survival: IPNW/PSR World Congress, May 2002

IPNW Vital Signs 2
NMD INCREASES THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR

Peter Zheutlin, JD
John O. Pastore, MD

Having promised, during the campaign and in his inaugural address, to conduct a humble, not arrogant, foreign policy, George W. Bush promptly dispatched Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to Munich earlier this month to tell America’s European allies (and, not incidentally, Russia and China) that regardless of their deep concerns, the US would move swiftly to deploy a national missile defense system (NMD). Nations with peaceful intentions, said Rumsfeld, have nothing to fear from a missile shield.

But, perhaps it’s US intentions that have everyone else on edge. Indeed, if you read the glossy 1997 booklet published by the United States Space Command called “Vision for 2000,” you might be on edge, too. “Vision for 2000” is filled with Orwellian jargon such as this little pearl — “the emerging synergy of space superiority with land, sea, and air superiority, will lead to Full Spectrum Dominance” — that leave no doubt that NMD is part of a larger US plan to dominate space for military purposes.

Right up front, “Vision for 2000” proclaims: “US Space Command — dominating the space dimension of military operations to protect US interests and investment. Integrating Space Forces into warfighting capabilities across the full spectrum of conflict.” And USSPACECOM, as they call themselves, clearly sees NMD as essential to this warfighting mission.

“Global engagement,” says USSPACECOM in more military-speak, “is the application of precision force from, to, and through space. USSPACECOM will have a greatly expanded role as an active warfighter in the years ahead as the combatant command responsible for National Missile Defense (NMD) and space force application.” (Emphasis added.)

Even though NMD tests thus far have failed spectacularly, the critical question is not whether NMD might someday be technically feasible, but whether deployment of NMD will increase or decrease the risk of nuclear war.

NMD will increase the risk of nuclear war for several reasons.

First, NMD increases Russian and Chinese insecurity. The Russians in particular are not buying assurances that NMD will remain a limited system, and USSPACECOM’s “Vision for 20/20” undercuts assertions that NMD would be a purely defensive deployment. Russia’s fear is that NMD could eventually neutralize a sizable portion of Russia’s nuclear deterrent, making Russia vulnerable to a US first strike. Under such circumstances, Russia would be loath to agree to further reductions in its nuclear arsenal and would be under enormous pressure, in fact, to do just the opposite. This, in turn, undercuts another highly desirable goal reportedly under serious consideration by the Bush Administration: unilateral reductions in the US nuclear arsenal by thousands of warheads. If NMD sparks a Russian and/or Chinese nuclear weapons buildup, where will the domestic political support for US reductions come from? In short, NMD could well be the first shot fired in a new nuclear arms race.

Second, deployment of NMD threatens to unravel decades of painstaking efforts to restrain the nuclear arms race. If NMD comes to dominate space from, to, and through space, it will end up in other, more dangerous and less accountable hands.

US allies who have profound and justifiable concerns about NMD have options open to them beyond applying diplomatic and political pressure on the Bush Administration. Canada, Norway, Australia, Denmark, Greenland, and the UK, all of which may be asked to provide a base for NMD-related facilities, could refuse. These countries, and others, may find themselves under enormous pressure from the US to participate in NMD and it will, no doubt, take enormous political will to resist. But, if the President is serious about having a humble foreign policy, he cannot afford to run rough-shod over the concerns of America’s most important allies, or dismiss those of its potential adversaries.
Bombs Away
Canada’s Cutting-Edge Cyber-Campaign to Stop NMD

Groups throughout the peace movement have long wrestled with how to involve the younger generation in our work. IPPNW’s Canadian affiliate, Physicians for Global Survival (PGS), has found a way to reach the Nexus generation (18-35 year olds) with its innovative Bombs Away campaign to stop US deployment of a National Missile Defense (NMD) system.

With powerful images and words on billboards and transit ads (see black and white version on the cover) in two major cities — Vancouver on the west coast and Toronto in the east — Bombs Away is reaching people to its Bombs Away website. The well-designed website educates visitors about the threat nuclear weapons pose today. But many of the 300,000 people who have visited www.bombsaway.ca so far haven’t just read about the issues. More than 2,000 have been motivated to act, sending faxes to the Canadian government encouraging opposition to the Bush Administration’s dangerous plan.

The launching of the ads and website in early February also received extensive coverage by the media, helping to further spread news of the cyber-campaign. Journalist David Beers of the Toronto Sun has had his articles on the campaign picked up by other media outlets such as the US-based news service AlterNet. (Go to www.alternet.org and select “Selling Nuclear Fear” to print a copy of this article or use the Publications Order Form on page 19 to request a copy to mail to you by writing in your request.)

IPPNW Co-President Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford’s determination to find effective ways to communicate IPPNW’s anti-nuclear message to young people sparked the campaign. Ideas for how to reach the 18-35 year-old demographic were developed by Amanda Gibbs of the Vancouver-based Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society (IMPACS) and PGS and then tested by a Toronto-based research firm called D-Code. Campaign development was supported by a generous grant from the Simons Foundation.

The research found that most of those surveyed thought that the nuclear threat was a thing of the past — that it ended when the Cold War did. When told that there are still more than 30,000 nuclear weapons in the world today — with more than 5,000 on hair-trigger alert — they were shocked. Many expressed anger that the leaders of the nuclear weapons states had led them to believe that they had eliminated the threat. When given the facts, these Canadian youth were motivated to work to rid their world of nuclear weapons and the immediate, persistent risk of Armageddon.

Sarah Kelly, a 24-year-old medical student at the University of British Columbia, understands that the US NMD plan increases the risk of nuclear war. Serving as spokesperson at the campaign launch, she said, “If the US goes ahead on this, China and Russia have said that they will respond by heightening the arms race. Keep heightening the arms race, and eventually a nuclear weapon will be used.”

IMPACS’ Gibbs says that the Nexus generation is “realistic, confident, optimistic, driven to activism, and incredibly media literate.” The Bombs Away campaign strategy of using ironic advertising combined with web-based activism effectively harnesses the tremendous potential this group has to help create social change. IPPNW plans to work with its affiliated organizations in other countries to implement similar youth outreach campaigns — especially in the US and Russia where public support for nuclear abolition must be used to stop NMD and a new nuclear arms race.

PGS Members of Steering Committee for Bombs Away Campaign (Left to right): PGS Executive Director Debbie Grisdale with medical students Pari Ahmadi, Ashford and Jeremy Sennett. (Photo: Lynn Martin IPPNW)

News Briefs
continued from page 3

waste traveling to the Gorleben storage facility in Hamburg from the French nuclear reprocessing plant at La Huppe. As many as 15,000 police officers were dispatched at an estimated cost of $50 million. Germany recently lifted a ban on nuclear waste transports imposed in 1998 on safety grounds and two transports are expected per year as part of a deal made with the electricity industry in 2000 to phase out Germany’s 19 nuclear power plant reactors by 2025.

A federal court in March granted the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Livermore-based Tri-Valley CAREs the Motion for Preliminary Injunction in their legal battle against the multi-million dollar National Ignition Facility (NIF) megaproject for violating the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Being built as part of the Stockpile Stewardship program, NIF is suspected of being designed to research fusion reactions for a new generation of nuclear weapons. The two environmental groups sought to bar the DOE from using the NIF August 2000 “redeline” calling it an “illegally-prepared, biased review” to garner support for its problem-plagued laser fusion project. The 2 groups hope that Congress will take a close look at alternatives to the NIF project and reconsider its priority within the overall Stockpile Stewardship program, believing that with an objective external review of NIF’s costs, technical problems, and nuclear proliferation risks, Congress will cancel the facility.

In November, the Ukrainian Parliament ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Ukraine is one of the remaining 14 states whose ratification is required for the CTBT’s entry into force. The following thirteen states are required to ratify the treaty before it can enter into force: Vietnam, Indonesia, Egypt, Algeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia, Iran, US, China, Israel, North Korea (sign and ratify), India (sign and ratify), and Pakistan (sign and ratify).

On 3 January 2003, Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey (D-CA) submitted a bill, HR 17, to the 107th US Congress welcoming the IPPNW-backed Model Nuclear Weapons Convention and calling on the US President to begin multilateral negotiations leading to the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention. The Bill has already been co-sponsored by 17 additional members of Congress. US citizens are encouraged to contact their Congressional Representative and urge them to become a co-sponsor of HR 17. The full text of the resolution can be found at thomas.loc.gov, key word “nuclear disarmament.”

More nuclear news is available at www.wagingpeace.org, a project of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.
IPPNW’s Polish affiliate (Lekarze Przeciw Wojnie Nuklearnej) invited an IPPNW delegation to meet decision-makers in March in Warsaw to discuss nuclear disarmament issues with particular emphasis on how to achieve a nuclear weapons-free Europe. The team consisted of Professor Stefan Leder and Dr. Bogdan Wassilewski from Poland, Dr. Herman Spanjaard from the Netherlands, Dr. Arthur Muhl from Switzerland, Dr. Klaus Renoldner from Austria, Professor Martin Westerhausen from Germany, Dr. Zita Makoi from Hungary, and Dr. Liz Waterston from the United Kingdom. News of the delegation ran in Poland’s major newspaper Tribona.

IPPNW-Poland, under the guidance of Professor Stefan Leder and Dr. Bogdan Wassilewski, met with Poland’s Foreign Minister, members of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Sejm (the parliament), and the former Minister of Defense.

Dr. Renoldner raised IPPNW’s concerns over the deadlock in nuclear weapons negotiations, stressing the need for negotiations leading to a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) to ban nuclear weapons. He also urged enactment of a nuclear weapons-free zone in Europe as a confidence-building measure. Foreign Minister Bartoszewsky observed that Poland feels threatened by the possible presence of nuclear weapons in Kaliningrad, Russia, and said that there had been a joint inspection by a Polish and Russian team of experts to two of the five suspected sites. It has been reported that Russia may have moved nuclear weapons into Kaliningrad in response to NATO expansion. The former Warsaw Pact countries of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic joined NATO in March 1999.

Recent public opinion polls showed 80 percent of the Polish population favored joining NATO. A much lower percentage favors deploying nuclear weapons in Poland or basing foreign troops there.

The delegation learned that Poland supports the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and regrets that the US government has not ratified the treaty.

IPPNW-Sweden (Svenska Läkare mot Kärnvapen — SLMK) has provided a great service to IPPNW’s affiliated organizations around the world by developing a new section on its website focused on US plans to deploy a National Missile Defense (NMD).

Written by respected US-based Swedish journalist Claes Andreasson, the website topics cover:
- What is the National Missile Defense?
- Clinton’s Missile Defense System
- The Threat
- NMD and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty
- Quotes on NMD

It also has News, Links, Image Gallery, and Sound sections.

Available at www.slmk.org in both English and Swedish, this is a powerful new tool for activists to use in the fight to stop NMD. SLMK has generously given permission for the text to be used by others with the request that the source be cited as “Claes Andreasson for Swedish Physicians Against Nuclear Weapons.”
An important focus for MPI now is to monitor progress on implementation of the NPT 13 Practical Steps. MPI began to address this at a roundtable it organized at the State of the World Forum on September 7 with representatives from the New Agenda group, the US government, and the UN. Predictions about fulfillment of the NPT commitments before 2005 were gloomy. On October 17, government and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) again explored prospects for wide support of a new vehicle to implement the 13 steps — the NA resolution — at a UN forum arranged and facilitated by MPI.

On April 30, 2001, one year after the 2000 NPT Review, MPI will hold a strategy consultation “Towards NPT 2005: An Action Plan for the 13 Steps” at the UN with representatives of the New Agenda, other key governments, NGOs, and the UN, to examine progress, analyze obstacles, and form strategies for moving ahead on the 13 Steps. Discussion will proceed from a paper commissioned by MPI from Dr. Tariq Rauf of the Monterey Institute in California, which will provide background, analysis, and recommended actions on each of the steps. A report from the consultation will be widely circulated.

Support for the New Agenda

MPI sees the outcome of the 2000 NPT Review Conference as a new moment in nuclear disarmament. Not only did 187 countries pledge an unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, the New Agenda (NA) group also emerged there as the preeminent political force for nuclear disarmament and subsequently crafted their 2000 UN General Assembly resolution to embody the 13 Practical Steps adopted by the conference.

On November 20, the General Assembly voted overwhelmingly (154 yes; 8 abstain; 5 no) to adopt it, with China plus all of NATO supporting it, with the exception of France and Russia.

Challenging NATO Nuclear Policy

NATO continues to call nuclear weapons “essential,” squarely contradicting the NPT Review pledge to pursue their elimination. In early October 2000, discussions between an MPI delegation and Foreign Ministry and Defense officials in Oslo, Berlin, Rome, Brussels, and The Hague revealed both lack of awareness of and inability to grapple with this contradiction. The delegation brought these conclusions to the October 17 MPI consultation and reported them widely. MPI was grateful for organizing help from the following IPPNW activists: Kirsten Osen working with MPI Country Representative Terje Stokstad in Oslo; Xanthe Hall and Dr. Lars Pohlmeier in Berlin; Dr. Henri Firket in Brussels; and Dr. Herman Spanjaard with MPI Country Representative Karel Koster in The Hague.

Approach to Canada

The November federal election in Canada put a planned MPI delegation on hold. Senator Douglas Roche has taken steps to acquaint the new Foreign Minister John Manley with MPI’s track record. Senator Roche also participated in important Canadian NGO events in the interim and submitted a Motion on NMD to the Senate in February. The MPI delegation, including IPPNW Co-President Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford, will visit Ottawa on May 8-9, when the conclusions from the 13 Steps strategy consultation will be reported to the government of Canada.

Approach to Japan

In November 2000, Senator Roche was represented by Commander of the Royal Navy (Rt) Robert Green at the Nagasaki Global Citizens’ Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, along with other MPI members. Commander Green, accompanied by Alyn Ware and MPI Country Representative Professor Hiro Umebayashi, met with senior members of the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo to report on the MPI NATO tour and discuss growing contradictions in Japan’s reliance on the US nuclear umbrella. The delegation also met with several key legislators in the leading opposition parties in the Diet (Japan’s Parliament) where Commander Green briefed them on his book The Naked Nuclear Emperor: Debunking Nuclear Deterrence (the Japanese version was launched in Nagasaki).

Looking Forward to the 2002 NPT PrepCom

MPI will continue to support the New Agenda group and other key governments in promoting progress on the NPT 13 Steps through delegations and consultations. A key question is how best to influence the nuclear weapon states in the twelve months preceding the 2002 NPT PrepCom.

Organizing Parliamentarians

From the beginning, MPI has seen parliamentarians as a vital link between civil society and national leaders. Alyn Ware has now been commissioned to develop a Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament to facilitate inter-parliamentary communication and cooperation, encourage members to participate in international disarmament fora, and provide updates on international initiatives. Alyn can be reached directly at PNND Aotearoa/New Zealand Office, PO Box 23257, Cable Car Lane, Wellington, phone (64) 4 499 3443, fax (64) 4 499 5858, and email alynw@attglobal.net.

* The Geiringer Oration was established in memory of IPPNW New Zealand’s Dr. Erich Geiringer, a founder of the World Court Project and prominent political activist.

IPPNW is a member of the MPI coalition. Visit MPI online at www.middlepowers.org

IPPNW’s Annual Report and the new report by Dr. Rauf are available upon request.
energy is a concern of central importance. Not
weeks.

dangers of this ammunition. A political and
German soldiers might
grow energy over much too
IPPNW-Germany has
criticized the current
for reaching
phasing out nuclear
for sticking to outdated
for this period.

Other Programs
Each aspect of
work of IPPNW-
Germany is intended to make a change towards
a healthy and peaceful society. Our members are
also involved in securing better conditions for
traumatized refugees in Germany. The organiza-
tion also conducts an annual medical student
exchange program that sends students to hospi-
tals abroad to participate in social and political
projects as well as obtain medical training.

The Terrible Twins:
Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Power
Nuclear weapons development, testing,
storage, and the threat of their use remain a pri-
mary concern in Germany. IPPNW-Germany is
part of a nationwide network of more than 40 or-
ganizations working against this threat to human-
ity. While IPPNW-Germany continues to work
for a nuclear weapons-free Baltic Sea, the threat
of US National Missile Defense has become the
main focus for IPPNW-Germany and the net-
work.

At the beginning of this year, IPPNW-
Germany was prominently cited by the media
when the possibility that German soldiers might
develop cancer because of depleted uranium
(DU) ammunition used in Kosovo came to light.
In Kosovo, IPPNW-Germany was quickly sought by
the industry for building a compromise
between the industry and the public in
cluding concerns from medical colleagues and
enough funds to publish two advertisements within three
weeks.

For IPPNW-Germany, the danger of nuclear
energy is a concern of central importance. Not
only do our members engage in activities
that inform the public about the health
hazards of nuclear energy production,
they also try to influence politicians.
IPPNW-Germany has
criticized the current
government for reaching
a compromise
with the industry on
phasing out nuclear
energy over much too
long a period and for
keeping outdated
security standards for
this period.

In May, IPPNW-Germany will host a
Congress on questions of ethics in medicine.
More than 1,000 participants have enrolled so
far. This level of engagement proves that IPPNW-
Germany addresses issues that matter to our
colleagues and to the public in effective and creative
ways.

Dr. Lars Pohlmeier
Physician-Activist Profile:
The Youthful Face of IPPNW-Germany

German non-profit organizations are not
alone in complaining about the absence of
young people in socially responsible work and
electoral politics. But the conclusion that our
youth have become apolitical is misplaced.
The proof is the continuing interest of
young medical students in the activities of
IPPNW-Germany. IPPNW-Germany has gained
new and active young colleagues throughout
the years who have organized many projects
around the issues that matter most to them.
One of these is Dr. Lars Pohlmeier who
joined IPPNW-Germany in 1991. From the out-
set, one of his interests was the international
work of IPPNW, and he has served first as a
student representative to IPPNW's Board of
Directors, then as IPPNW International
Councillor. Recently, Lars was a member of the
Organizing Committee for the 14th World
Congress in Paris.

Lars combines the study of medicine
with that of journalism and has written about the
complex subjects of nuclear disarmament and
the health hazards of radiation for a popular
audience. For years, he
was part of the team
that produced the biannual student maga-
zine Amat om.

IPPNW-Germany was fortunate to have
Lars work throughout the year 2000 in the
Berlin office as the physician-representative of
the organization. During this time, he helped
develop IPPNW-Germany's campaigns. With
his help, IPPNW-Germany took up the issue of
the war in Yugoslavia — the first time since the
end of World War II that Germany had partic-
ipated in a military conflict in Europe.

Since January of this year, Lars has been
working in a hospital in Hamburg, and he has
received his M.D. Now 31, he and his wife Lena,
whom he met while working in St. Petersburg,
are raising a lovely one-year-old baby girl. What
motivates Lars to be a good doctor and a car-
ing father also drives him to devote so much of
his time and energy to IPPNW: the desire to
make the world a safer and healthier place for
present and future generations.
The road to nuclear abolition has been long, much too slow, and filled with twists and turns. When the 187 countries that are party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) gathered at the United Nations for their year 2000 review, they agreed on 13 practical steps that would move the world forward along that road. Signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, implementing existing treaties, negotiating a ban on the production of fissile materials, and reaffirming the commitments to disarmament made in Article VI of the NPT were all on the list.

Not surprisingly, ballistic missile defenses were not. While the National Missile Defense (NMD) proposals of the Clinton Administration, which have now been taken up far more aggressively by the Bush Administration, were not explicitly rejected in the NPT consensus statement, country after country, including some key US allies, have warned that deployment of NMD could lead to the unraveling of decades of progress toward nuclear disarmament.

The new US administration has offered contradictory proposals that it claims will reduce the threat of nuclear attack at the start of the 21st century. The "top to bottom" defense review ordered by Congress and soon to be implemented by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld may result in a recommendation to reduce the US strategic nuclear arsenal unilaterally from some 7,000 to 2,000 or fewer warheads. During his campaign, candidate Bush also pledged to take large numbers of nuclear warheads off hair-trigger alert.

While it has quietly signaled these positive steps, however, the Bush Administration has trumpeted its intentions to accelerate the development and deployment of NMD. George W. Bush made NMD a campaign issue and has stubbornly supported development of an expanded missile defense system since assuming office in January. Secretary of Defense and ardent NMD proponent Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell have pressed reluctant US allies in the UK, Denmark, Australia, and elsewhere to accept NMD, while expressing indifference to the concerns of Russia, China, and other countries that see missile defenses as a threat to their own security.

NMD would fill the American public even further into a false sense of security, would needlessly exacerbate feelings of insecurity among US allies and potential adversaries and would incite Russia and China into increasing their offensive nuclear capabilities. To the extent that so-called "rogue states," such as North Korea, Iraq, and Iran, may be developing ballistic missile capabilities with the intention of attacking the US — a claim that has been made too casually given the flaws and the expense of the system being proposed — NMD will only provoke them to step up and expand efforts to overwhelm or circumvent the defenses.

Aside from increasing global instability, NMD remains technically unfeasible. Two out of three tests have failed, and the one labeled a success was based on manipulated data, according to MIT defense expert Ted Postol.

 Rather than freeing the world from the constant threat of a nuclear catastrophe to which there would be no medical response, deployment of NMD, whether it works or not, would ensure that the existing nuclear weapon states — and undoubtedly a number of new ones — would retain some nuclear weapons and keep them on high alert. NMD is not a step on the road to elimination of nuclear weapons; rather, it permanently institutionalizes the role that weapons of mass destruction have played for half a century in establishing and advertising the possessor's military dominance.

Assurances that NMD is a purely defensive system are belied by statements of the US Space Command, which has claimed for itself “a greatly expanded role as an active warfighter in the years ahead as the combatant command responsible for National Missile Defense (NMD) and space force application . . . . [S]pace superiority is emerging as an essential element of battlefield success and future warfare.”

Finally, NMD threatens to consume hundreds of billions of dollars that would be better spent on urgently needed programs to promote global health, to confront the growing threat of AIDS and other infectious disease epidemics, to eradicate poverty, and to stabilize the Earth’s climate and protect the global environment.

IPPNW’s NMD Campaign

To convince the US administration to abandon its NMD proposals, IPPNW has launched a 12-country campaign to oppose missile defenses. In coordination with its US affiliate, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), IPPNW will mobilize physicians and other concerned citizens in Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, New Zealand, North and South Korea, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Some of these countries are key US allies that have expressed doubts about NMD and need to be reinforced in their opposition. Three of them — Australia, Denmark, and the UK — will house some of the NMD infrastructure and persuading them to withhold permission for the construction of radars and other communications systems would place a major stumbling block in front of the Bush Administration.

North Korea and Russia have special roles to play in IPPNW’s campaign. Russian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (RPPNW), working closely with PSR, will use its access to the Russian parliament, the Duma, to arrange meetings between IPPNW physicians and Russian legislators, with the goal of convincing the Russian leadership to hold firm in its opposition to NMD. During IPPNW’s 15th World Congress in Washington, DC, next May, PSR and RPPNW will schedule meetings between Duma members and key members of the US Congress to highlight ongoing bilateral opposition to NMD within the governments of both countries.

A cornerstone of the pro-NMD argument has been the allegation that North Korea is developing nuclear weapons and long-range missiles that could threaten the US by the middle of this decade. This threat — which cannot be ignored but has been overstated to sell NMD to the US public — would evaporate should North and South Korea successfully reconcile. IPPNW affiliates in this part of Asia have come together in recent years to facilitate regional peace building (see Vital Signs 13.1). Sometime
next year, IPPNW will bring together a delegation of Korean, American, and Russian physicians for a series of consultations in Pyongyang and Washington, D.C. Meetings with government officials, key legislators, leaders of the medical profession, and the media will be scheduled to promote diplomacy and regional reconciliation as the more effective path toward global nuclear disarmament.

The NMD campaign is already off to an energetic start. IPPNW's Australian affiliate, the Medical Association for Prevention of War (MAPW), has called for a public debate on Australia's potential involvement in NMD, as well as on progress towards nuclear disarmament generally.

"The Government seems hell-bent on supporting a technical system which will ensure continued reliance on nuclear weapons rather than pursuing the real goal — abolition of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery," said MAPW President Dr. Sue Wareham.

Neil Arya, President of Physicians for Global Survival (IPPNW-Canada), wrote to Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien in February, shortly before his meeting with the US President, urging him to state "clearly and unequivocally that Canada opposes the deployment and development of a national missile defense system and that true security depends upon the abolition of nuclear weapons." (For more on Canada's anti-NMD Campaign, see page 4.)

The Bush NMD Plan

The US is poised to pursue an air-, sea- and land-based NMD system that it has said would protect all 50 states, US friends and allies, and deployed forces overseas against missile threats from "rogue states" such as North Korea and Iraq, as well as from an accidental missile launch from Russia or China. The fine points of Bush's NMD will not be known until after the completion of an ongoing Nuclear Posture Review and a separate review of US defense priorities being directed by US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Based upon public statements, early leaks about NMD plans, and references in the Fiscal Year 2002 budget, however, it is certain that the administration is committed to moving ahead with development and deployment of a "missile shield."

PSR's Position

While Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) welcomes steps to reduce the number of nuclear weapons, the administration's plans to deploy a missile defense system are a matter of grave concern. Deployment of an NMD system is the wrong prescription for US and global security. NMD does not presently and may never meet several fundamental criteria that would warrant system development and deployment.

- Threat: The terrorist attack on the USS Cole illustrated that, contrary to the naive arguments of NMD supporters, future threats to US interests and security will not be delivered by missiles — which are inaccurate and whose origin can easily be determined — but by anonymous, inexpensive, and clandestine means, including small aircraft, shipping containers, speedboats, and truck trailers. Moreover, the improvement in US relations with North Korea following former Secretary of State Albright's historic visit to that country, one of the principal "rogue states" against which a NMD system would protect, weakens the case for NMD and strengthens the case for the powerful role diplomacy plays to promote global security.

- Technical Feasibility: The technical feasibility and effectiveness of an NMD system is highly questionable. Two recent tests of missile interceptors failed and many scientists argue that simple countermeasures, such as including decoys along with warheads in a missile payload, would render the system ineffective.

- Cost Effectiveness: The cost of NMD is not at all commensurate with the relative risks associated with the threat of a missile attack. Alternative solutions, including diplomacy and strengthening of the arms control and nonproliferation regimes, are clearly more cost effective.

- International Impact: In light of near global opposition, the deployment of an NMD system by the US will likely lead to renewed nuclear arms races in Russia, China, India, and Pakistan. Moreover, were the United States to withdraw from the ABM treaty to pursue its NMD goals, it would cause irreversible damage to the existing intricate web of nuclear arms control and disarmament agreements.
PSR's NMD Strategy

PSR's strategy to oppose the US administration's plans for NMD includes grassroots action, quality research, public outreach and education, media work, interaction with legislators and officials, and international efforts:

- **Grassroots Action**: PSR encourages its members and activists to participate in petition drives, protests, and calling/writing. PSR has launched a petition campaign encouraging the public to voice opposition to NMD. Some 5,000 PSR members and activists have signed petitions asking the President to halt NMD research and development. Since last year, PSR has led three public protests opposing "Star Wars."

- **Research and Analysis**: A group of PSR physicians has just concluded a major scientific study, due to be published at the end of this year, detailing possible medical consequences of an accidental or intentional nuclear attack on the US. The findings of this study suggest that the US population is likely to suffer greater casualty and devastation with a deployed missile shield than without.

- **Media Work**: A number of PSR members and activists have written letters to editors of national and local newspapers stating their opposition to NMD. PSR staff members conduct meetings with newspaper editorial boards to encourage national and local newspapers to write articles on national missile defense, de-alerting nuclear weapons, and nuclear abolition. As a result of these meetings, some 60 editorials, op-eds, and articles have appeared in newspapers, bringing the public's attention to these issues. Some 400 doctors joined PSR's call to oppose "Star Wars" in a full-page ad published in the New York Times.

- **Interaction with Legislators and Of F ices**: A number of PSR physicians are scheduled to meet with members of Congress in May 2002 to educate legislators about the medical community's opposition to NMD.

International Efforts

Martin Butcher, Director of PSR Security Programs, met with members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Parliamentary Assembly (NPA) during their visit to Washington, DC, in January. The parliamentarians had expressed a desire to be briefed on nuclear weapons and NMD issues before their official meetings with US officials. PSR staff has also been meeting with political and defense counselors of different embassies in Washington, DC, to convince NATO countries and other US allies and friends to not give in to US pressures to join NMD.

Tell President Bush, Congress, and their Corporate Sponsors:
Stop the Star Wars Fraud! Abolish Nuclear Weapons Now!

Sunday, June 10, 2:00 PM
National Mobilization
Join us at the White House!
Lafayette Park, Washington, DC
Open to the public

Monday & Tuesday, June 11 & 12
Activist Training & Congressional Education Days

Learn the latest information on Star Wars National Missile Defense and plans for a new generation of nuclear weapons, as well as initiatives toward global abolition of nuclear weapons. Take action and write to your Congressional representatives.

15th World Congress

Washington, DC, May 2002

IPPNW's next World Congress, the 15th since it was founded in 1980, will be hosted by Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) in Washington, DC, from May 15-19, 2002. PSR is the US affiliate of IPPNW.

At this pivotal time in world history, IPPNW and PSR believe it is crucial to convey to Congressional and Administration officials the global impact of US government decisions. To change what happens on our fragile planet and to all who inhabit it, we must fully understand and ultimately change the thinking of leaders in Washington. The 15th IPPNW Congress is a part of that overall strategy to educate and influence decision-makers.

For further information, contact Nadene Waller at IPPNW, nwaller@ippnw.org, or Alyson Michael at PSR, 1875 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 1012, Washington, DC 20009, Tel: (202) 667-4260.

Landmines News

On March 1, 2001, the international campaign celebrated the two-year anniversary of the MBT's Entry-Into-Force. However, at the time of the anniversary, Russia, Burma, Sri Lanka, and Angola were among those governments actively laying anti-personnel landmines.

To date, 139 countries have signed the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT) and 11 have ratified it. Most recent ratifications include Kenya (January) and Zambia (February). Still, 54 countries have yet to sign the MBT and 28 have signed but not ratified the treaty.

Nearly 200 campaigners from 90 countries gathered in Washington, DC, on March 6-10, 2001, to bring attention to the US, one of the key countries standing outside the treaty. This was the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)'s first-ever international meeting in the U.S. (See accompanying article on page 11).

Key findings of the Landmine Monitor Report 2001 include signs of progress: more than 22 million AP stockpiled mines destroyed by over 50 nations; fewer mine victims in affected countries such as Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, and Mozambique; and a total of 168 million square meters of land demined in 1999 by seven of the largest humanitarian mine clearance programs.

Landmine Action/UK and the German Initiative to Ban Landmines launched "Alternative anti-personnel mines — The next generations," a report that identifies victim-activated weapons, both in existing stockpiles and in development, which may function as AP mines or have the same impact on civilians. (The report is available at www.landminede.net.)
On March 6-10, 2001, more than 400 campaigners, mine survivors, deminers, observers from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and representatives of international organizations gathered in Washington, DC, to attend a General Meeting of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), as well as an array of activities and events arranged by the US Campaign (USCBL). Participants included 160 members of the ICBL from 80 countries, 20 NGO observers from an additional 10 countries, and 250 members of the USCBL from 46 of the 50 US states. IPPNW representatives Dr. Eddie Mworoi (Uganda), Roman Dolgov (Russia), and Piji Protopsaltis (Central Office) were among the participants. The combined presence of the ICBL and the USCBL in Washington, DC, led Washington, DC’s Mayor Anthony Williams to declare the week “Ban Landmines Week.”

After years of meeting in every corner of the world, the international campaign decided to bring the world’s attention to the US by holding its first-ever international meeting in the nation’s capital. The US, a special target country for the ICBL, continues to stand outside the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT), along with another 53 countries including Russia, China, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Israel, India, Pakistan, and Yugoslavia. Though it continues to be the largest donor government for mine action ($100 million per year for global mine clearance efforts), the US has yet to join the 112 states parties to the comprehensive landmine ban. The Bush Administration has not yet made any policy statement on the banning of anti-personnel (AP) mines, though current policy calls for the US to join the MBT in 2006 if alternatives have been found. National and international activists joined forces and used the DC meetings as an opportunity to push the landmine issue onto the new administration's agenda.

The General Meeting included discussions on the progress of the ICBL since the last General Meeting in Mozambique (May 1999), as well as on the strategic direction and activities for the next four years leading to the first Review Conference of the MBT in 2004. Based on the input of national campaigns, individual NGOs, and working groups of the ICBL, a draft 2004 Action Plan was adopted at the closing of the conference, outlining ways in which the international movement will work over the next four years to achieve universalization and implementation of the MBT. A separate two-day meeting of the Landmine Monitor during which researchers gathered to discuss and analyze their findings followed the General Meeting. The Third Landmine Monitor Annual Report (2001) will be launched at the Third Meeting of States Parties to the MBT, scheduled to be held in Managua, Nicaragua (September 2001).

Even more exciting, however, was the long series of activities and awareness-raising events held throughout the week, parallel to the formal meetings. These included meetings with 300 Congressional representatives; embassy visits; a press conference next to a giant pile of 6,000 shoes representing the victims of landmine injuries and an international demining demonstration on the Capital lawn; a reception at the Organization of American States, featuring speeches by Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan, Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA), and Jody Williams; an amputee hockey tournament; film screenings and a minerelated play; exhibits in shopping malls and cafes; a demonstration in Lafayette Park; petitioning for signatures by national and international youth across from the White House; and, finally, an inter-faith prayer service in honor of the March events, Senator Leahy introduced the Landmine Elimination and Victim Assistance Act of 2001 on March 8. The bill urges the US to join the MBT as soon as possible, directs the Department of Defense to field alternatives to AP mines, and directs the President to create an inter-agency committee on mine victim assistance.

US leadership in the field of demining and mine victim assistance is not enough if new mines continue to be placed in the ground. Let us hope that the Washington events made a clear and loud statement to the Bush Administration: public pressure will not rest until the US shows equal leadership in banning the weapon completely.

More importantly, the “Ban Landmines Week” events succeeded in bringing the attention of the US administration to the landmine issue. During that week, US Secretary of State Colin Powell met with Her Majesty Queen Noor, USCBL Co-Chair, and landmine survivor Jerry White and 17-year-old Cambodian landmine survivor Song Kosal to discuss landmines. Secretary Powell assured the group that landmines would be included in the administration’s top-to-bottom review of the military. Moreover, in honor of the March events, Senator Leahy introduced the Landmine Elimination and Victim Assistance Act of 2001 on March 8. The bill urges the US to join the MBT as soon as possible, directs the Department of Defense to
SMALL PROGRESS ON SMALL ARMS

Brian Rawson
Program Coordinator

Nations assembled at the third and last preparatory session for the upcoming UN conference on small arms in March failed to reach consensus on a number of critical measures for the control of small arms proliferation. In response, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are planning a “Global Day of Action” in June and a large presence at the UN conference itself in July. Then, in September, IPPNW and its Finnish affiliate, PSR-Finland, will host a major international medical conference on the public health consequences of small arms trafficking.

The UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, July 9-20 in New York, is the long-awaited opportunity for governments to address the problem of small arms proliferation. At three preparatory sessions, or PrepComs, held over the past 13 months, governments have negotiated the specific political commitments to be agreed to in July. IPPNW and other NGOs in the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) have attended each session urging a comprehensive and legally binding approach.

Humanitarian Crisis; Complex Solution

The UN, numerous governments, and NGOs have for several years investigated the role of small arms and light weapons — including firearms, handguns, assault rifles, mortars, and other portable arms — in facilitating and prolonging a worldwide epidemic of armed violence. Widely available, easy to purchase and use, and highly lethal, they make armed attacks more likely, quicker to escalate, more deadly, and harder to resolve.

The humanitarian dimensions of the crisis are widespread and enormous. Small arms are used to kill an estimated 300,000 people in armed conflict every year. In addition, some 200,000 lives per year are taken in homicides, suicides, and accidents. Small arms used in conflicts contribute to legions of refugees and internally displaced persons (1 person in 120 worldwide) and to psychological trauma; they disrupt health and humanitarian services; and they detract from development and human rights protection.

In a study released at the March UN PrepCom entitled “Global Trade in Small Arms: Public Health Effects and Interventions,” IPPNW and SAFER-Net — a Canadian-based small arms information network — reported that civilian-type weapons and legal markets exacerbate the problem of major gun violence conducted with military weapons obtained through illicit markets.

Neither governments nor NGOs are considering a total ban on small arms. But NGOs are urging the UN to require closer monitoring and control of legal arms holdings because illicit arms are often smuggled from legal stocks — military, commercial, or civilian.

Falling Short

The UN Conference will address only military-style small arms instead of dealing with the complete spectrum. Moreover, it will produce only statements of political principles without a timetable for implementation instead of producing legally binding measures and a timetable for implementation. It will address primarily “downstream” interventions (for example, improved customs detection of smuggled arms, destruction of surplus stocks after cessation of conflict) while shying away from “upstream” measures at the source (for example, greater transparency and monitoring regarding military and civilian holdings). Nor will it confront state responsibilities to impose export criteria or to establish a code of conduct that would prevent states from exporting arms to regions of conflict or human rights abuse.

In response to these perceived shortcomings, IANSA members are working to increase a public awareness of the humanitarian dimensions of the problem and its solutions leading up to the July conference. Civil society will have to create the political will needed to bring the small arms epidemic under control.

The light weight, small size, accessible, and easy-to-use weapons have made it possible for children to be recruited in violence and warfare around the world. (Photo: Oxfam-UK)

Running Guns

THE GLOBAL BLACK MARKET IN SMALL ARMS
Edited by Lora Lumpe

Whether in Africa, Sri Lanka, Colombia, or the US, it is not heavy weaponry or hi-tech devices that kill the most people, but cheap and accessible small arms that have flooded so many countries in the 1980s and 1990s. This highly readable book advances understanding of the illegal arms traffic. How is it conducted? Who are the players? What are the impacts? And, most importantly, what can be done to curb the deadly trade? It is a fascinating, highly informative, and policy relevant investigation into an issue affecting too many of us and about which far too little is known. The book’s author Lora Lumpe is with the international Peace Research Institute (PRIO) in Oslo, Norway. To order Running Guns, write to Palgrave, c/o Roxanne Hunte, 175 Fifth Ave, New York, NY 10010, or fax (212) 777-6357.
IPPNW and PSR at the UN

IPPNW and PSR (USA) opened a new United Nations office in September 2000 to work on nuclear disarmament and international security issues, small arms, and environmental issues including climate change and energy.

During September, October, and November 2000, in cooperation with other NY-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who follow disarmament, the UN Office monitored the deliberations of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) and sent regular updates to IPPNW and PSR members. These reports were the first NGO effort of its kind, closely following the First Committee debate and the voting on resolutions. Several governmental delegates also relied on these reports (and a few even admitted that they used them for their own reports to their governments). All reports and UNGA resolutions are available at www.reachingcriticalwill.org.

The UN Office will be following the development of a new study on missiles and will provide input wherever possible. We are also participating in an international NGO study group “Beyond Missile Defense” that seeks to explore and advocate new and scientifically based alternatives to missile proliferation and missile defense. The UN Office was also part of a small group of NGOs invited to provide input into a new study in disarmament education. IPPNW’s history educating the medical community and the greater public will be useful for this study, which is to produce specific recommendations for furthering disarmament efforts.

Merav Datan, Director of the UN Office, has been participating in the Security Council Working Group, a closed group of NGOs who meet regularly with individual Security Council ambassadors for informal briefings, primarily on matters of sanctions and peacekeeping. Members of IPPNW affiliates who have questions or comments for the Security Council are encouraged to send them to the UN Office.

The UN Office has been in contact with the newly formed NY office of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and is seeking ways to cooperate to support the CTBT, with particular attention on the upcoming Entry Into Force Conference, scheduled for September 2001 in New York.

In the field of small arms, the UN Office has been an active member of the New York Action Network on Small Arms and provides a base for NGO activities during the Preparatory Committee meetings for the upcoming UN Conference on illicit traffic in small arms. As an office of both IPPNW and PSR, the UN Office seeks to bring domestic gun violence concerns to international attention and vice versa and to raise awareness of the public health aspects of small arms.

As part of the Student PSR National Conference, the UN Office organized a special event for medical students that included a tour of the UN, a showing of the film “Armed to the Teeth,” and a panel discussion with UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs Jayantha Dhanapala, Minister Angelica Arce de Jeannet of the Mexican Mission to the UN, Commander Stephen Metruck of the US Mission to the UN, and Counselor Satish Mehta of the Indian Mission to the UN. Merav Datan moderated the panel.

The UN Office has become the contact point for NGOs who are participating in the Commission on Sustainable Development and working on energy issues. These efforts are oriented at preventing the promotion of nuclear energy as a “solution” to climate change given the unsustainable nature of nuclear energy. Our work on “safe nuclear disarmament,” which seeks to address the health and environmental aspects of nuclear abolition, also continues.

The UN Office has also taken the lead in a new network on “Human Rights, Justice, and the Rule of Law” which seeks to promote development of and adherence to just treaty law. This is a network in formation that combines research and advocacy related to the NPT, the CTBT, the Mine Ban Treaty, human rights and environmental treaties, and others, for the sake of furthering each of these campaigns while promoting the overall concept of a responsible rule of law society.

The UN Office has benefited greatly from the help of interns Pavla Humpolcova and Mindy Karp, as well as volunteer lawyer Nicole Deller.

(Left to right) IPPNW Regional Medical Student Representatives Proochista Ariana (North America-US) and Munanga Mwandila (Africa-Zambia). (Photo: Piji Protopsaltis-IPPNW)

Dear IPPNW...

Today my eight year old son and I learned a great deal. I wanted to thank you.

My twin children (we have an eight-year-old daughter also) were assigned an essay to write over the weekend on a “peace hero.” I found a great website on all Nobel Peace Prize winners in recent years. As we read over the list, my son decided he would write his essay on your organization. I would like to share it with you:

Doctors Who Are Trying to Stop Nuclear Warfare

The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War are heroes because first they are helping to stop nuclear war by spreading authoritative (true) information and by creating an awareness of the catastrophic (disaster) consequences of atomic warfare.

This group of doctors from the US and Soviet Union are spreading true information about the nuclear blasts and damage the radiation can do to bodies. Also by telling people there is no cure once the damage is done. We know that the information is true because they organized a team that did medical research for them based on the nuclear blasts in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

This group has helped millions of people become aware of the horrible consequences from nuclear weapons and nuclear warfare. They made the public aware by writing well-researched books and articles in medical and popular magazines and newspapers about the horrible destruction of our health and environment from nuclear bomb making, testing and use. They also organized many protests to help governments change laws to prevent the making of nuclear weapons. This group won the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize.

The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War are peace heroes because they are trying to stop the making of nuclear weapons which can destroy our planet.

This has affected me by making me very worried about our lives and the Earth because nuclear weapons can destroy them both. My hope for the future is that the laws are changed to prevent the making of nuclear weapons.

Tonight you have also become my heroes. Although it saddens me that my son went to bed “worried about our lives and our environment,” I believe that our children are our future. I know that tonight he also went to bed a very proud little boy who learned and understood the value of your work. I hope that by educating our very young they will one day enjoy a world free of nuclear and biological warfare.

A hopeful mom,
Alina C.
Reginald Student Representatives with SPSR students in New York. (Photo: IPPNW)

Piji Protosaltis
Project Coordinator

On March 10-12, 2001, an unprecedented meeting took place at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York: IPPNW’s regional student representatives came together for the first time to discuss the challenges and opportunities faced by IPPNW’s medical student movement today. Student regional representatives from around the globe are responsible for communicating with active students in their regions, coordinating their activities, and representing them on an international level.

This first meeting of regional reps was attended by Proochista Ariana (US) representing North America, Ahmed Geneid (Egypt) representing the Middle East, Munanga Mwandila (Zambia) representing Africa, Ai Shinzato (Japan) representing Tomoko Inoue (Japan) for North Asia, as well as Cæcilie Buhmann (Denmark) and Ernest Guevarra (Philippines) both student representatives to IPPNW’s Board of Directors, and Piji Protosaltis of the Central Office. The regional reps that could not make this meeting included Tom Clemens (Australia) for South Asia, Elise Hoorenberg (Netherlands) and Razvan Cereches (Romania) for Europe, and Karla Strasserburg (Mexico) for Latin America. However, Cæcilie and Ernest acted as spokespersons for Europe and North Asia, respectively.

Over the course of three days, the regional reps had the opportunity to look back and assess the weaknesses and challenges facing IPPNW’s student body, but also to look forward and share their vision of this body’s future. Students tackled a number of critical issues facing their regions, ranging from the gap in communication and cooperation between doctors and students, the scarcity in funding, the difficulties in maintaining consistent communication, to the lack of active students and official student structures. At the same time, the regional reps acknowledged the unique strengths of the student movement and the opportunities available to students to contribute to the IPPNW federation, and to society as a whole. By the end of the meeting, the regional reps produced a one-year workplan outlining the major tasks ahead that include recruitment, communication, fundraising, training, meetings (including the 2002 World Congress in Washington, D.C.), the website, and the exchange program MedEx. The meeting helped build a sense of cohesion and teamwork and gave the regional reps a sense of common purpose and direction.

The regional reps’ meeting was scheduled to coincide with the Student Physicians for Social Responsibility (SPSR) Annual Meeting (March 9-11), held at the same venue, in order to foster their interaction with US students. Indeed, the regional reps attended an SPSR conference session on “The Role of Health Professions Students and Health Professionals in the Advance to a Just, Peaceful, and Healthy World,” led by Dr. Victor Sidel (former IPPNW Co-President, US) and Herman Spanjaard (Regional Vice-President-Europe, The Netherlands) and also had the opportunity to present their work to the SPSR students during a dinner-lecture on the evening of March 10. Finally, on March 11, the Medical Student Board of Trustees, which includes Drs. Sidel and Spanjaard, met with the regional reps to discuss some of the key issues identified during their meeting and ways in which the Board can further their work and their goals.

More than 600 medical students from almost 80 countries met in Malta to take part in the March meeting of the International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA). Working committees gathered to discuss issues related to public health, refugees and peace, reproductive health, medical education, and professional and research exchange.

IPPNW’s student representative to IPPNW’s Board of Directors, Cæcilie Buhmann, met with IFMSA students and also gave a presentation on IPPNW to the Standing Committee on Refugees and Peace (SCORP).

It was wonderful to see how the national and local collaboration between IFMSA and IPPNW is growing. In SCORP, almost all country reports included collaboration with IPPNW. In Finland, for example, the students are working together with PSR-Finland in preparations for the conference on small arms in September 2001. In Canada, students took an active part in spreading information about IPPNW’s campaign to stop Nuclear Missile Defense (NMD). (See related story on page 4.)

The next European IPPNW student meeting will take place in Uppsala, Sweden, on April 19-23, 2001. The overall theme will be peace-building in Europe, with special attention given to nuclear weapons, peace education, human rights and health, conflict prevention, and social awareness. More than 50 students from 12 countries, many involved in IFMSA and IPPNW activities, will take part in the meeting.

IPPNW and IFMSA continue to solidify their relationship, finding creative ways for national and local collaboration on the work of peacebuilding and war prevention.

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GROWING LINKS BETWEEN IPPNW & IFMSA

Anna Hellman
IFMSA Liaison Officer for IPPNW

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IPPNW’s Annual Report 2000

IPPNW’s Annual Report for the year 2000 is now available in print and online. To order a print copy or an IPPNW bumper sticker (left) please contact lan@ippnw.org.
IPPNW Responds

DEPLETED URANIUM

IPPNW Assesses Health Effects of DU Weapons

The US-led military coalition that fought the 1991 Gulf War used about 300 tons of ammunition containing depleted uranium (DU) against Iraqi tanks and other armored vehicles. During the 1999 war in the Balkans, NATO forces used about 11 tons of DU in missiles that were fired into the former Yugoslavia. In the months and years following these conflicts, concerns about DU as a possible cause of reproductive health problems began to surface.

In February, IPPNW released an assessment of DU weapons that took a cautious scientific approach to claims about DU health effects, but that condemned the use of DU as a probable violation of the Geneva Conventions. IPPNW challenged the blanket denials of DU health effects offered by US and NATO officials and called for comprehensive and independent studies to resolve the medical uncertainties about DU.

"While peer-reviewed studies of health effects from natural uranium exposure are weighted against the probability that DU exposure, in and of itself, is likely to have caused an increase in leukemia or other cancers in the relatively short time since it has been dispersed in the Balkans environment, the science is controversial and the possibility cannot be ruled out," said the group of physicians who produced the assessment.

The physicians noted that impurities such as plutonium, actinides, and the highly radioactive manufactured uranium isotope U-236 had found their way into the DU munitions used in the Gulf and the Balkans and that exposure to these more dangerous substances, along with many other toxic chemicals released during the conflicts, could pose "serious health threats."

Studies conducted over several decades that have discounted acute health effects from uranium ingestion do not account for new experimental data suggesting a role for dust toxicity in the lung. The aerosol particles generated by DU weapons are in a very hard "ceramic" state and are likely to be retained in the lung and regional lymph nodes for a prolonged period, increasing the risk of cellular damage from alpha radiation.

"DU weapons indiscriminately contaminate the places in which they are used, and the contamination persists long after the conclusion of hostilities," said the authors of the statement.

The complete IPPNW assessment is published on IPPNW’s website (www.ippnw.org) and in the April issue of Medicine & Global Survival.

MAPW Condemns Bombing of Iraq

From MAPW Press Release

IPPNW Nominates Foro de Ermua for Nobel Prize

Since 1959, the separatist group ETA (Euzkadi Ta Askatasuna — Basque Fatherland and Liberty) has waged a campaign of escalating terror in pursuit of independence in the Basque autonomous regions of northern Spain and southwestern France. Hundreds have been murdered and thousands more injured as a result of ETA violence.

In February 1998, a group of 300 community leaders in Bilbao organized a non-violent resistance to the ETA. Known as Foro de Ermua, the association supports the promotion of human rights, democracy, and free speech in the Basque country. Members and supporters of Foro de Ermua have become priority targets for assassination by the ETA.

IPPNW and its affiliates — concerned over death threats to IPPNW members Drs. Aurora Bilbao Soto and Paco Donnate Oliver and members of Foro de Ermua — have been urging swift action by the European Parliament to address this situation (see Vital Signs issue 132). The European Parliament in November 2000 issued a written declaration on terrorism in Spain condemning the criminal attacks committed by the ETA against individuals and human rights organizations. The declaration has received the support of two-thirds of the European Parliament.

This January, IPPNW nominated the Foro de Ermua for the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize for its courageous work in promoting non-violent conflict resolution, even at the risk of personal safety.
**IPPNW Co-President Visits Japan**

Last October, IPPNW Co-President Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford toured several cities in Japan, meeting with the Physicians’ Forum Against Nuclear War and for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons in Osaka, members of the Japanese government, the media, and the medical community.

In Okinawa, Dr. Ashford revisited the horrors of the 1945 invasion as presented in film and images by the Prefectural Museum. Doctors in both Osaka and Okinawa spoke of the need for Japan to acknowledge its history of atrocities so that it can move forward.

In Tokyo, Dr. Ashford, along with Dr. Kenjiro Yokoro and members of IPPNW’s Japanese affiliate, met with Japan’s Deputy Director General for Arms Control and Scientific Affairs to discuss hopes that Japan would join the New Agenda Group.

The doctors met in Tokyo with the President of Asahi Shimbun, one of Japan’s leading newspapers and a very strong supporter of nuclear disarmament. The magazine Itsudemo Genki (Always in Good Health) ran a feature on Dr. Ashford and two young medical residents, Drs. Ohasi and Tanaka, who attended the Tokyo meeting.

During a visit to Wakayama City, Dr. Ashford gave a lecture to a large audience of doctors and medical students. She noted that although medical student response in Japan has been very positive, there are major obstacles to activist work, and she urged continuing exchanges among medical students in Japan, Europe, and North America.

**Medact’s 50th Anniversary**

On the organization’s 50th Anniversary, Medact’s President June Crown urged US President George W. Bush not to make a $65 billion albatross the hallmark of his presidency.

She called on the new administration, in the interests of public health,
- not to go ahead with the proposed US National Missile Defense (NMD) system which will destabilize global security and may start a new arms race;
- to put in place instead genuine measures to curb nuclear proliferation — such as ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; and
- to spend the $65 billion saved from discontinuing NMD on debt relief and aid to poor countries, and on action to prevent global warming.

Medact, the UK affiliate of IPPNW, is an organization of British doctors, nurses, and other health professionals concerned about major threats to health such as violent conflict, poverty, and environmental degradation.

**Global Health Curriculum**

Now Available

After much labor and many adjustments, the Medact Global Health Studies Curriculum is now ready. It consists of 15 units and three case studies on the health aspects of poverty, environmental degradation, and conflict world-wide. It is available now in black only from the Medact Office, price £20. The final two-color printed version will be on sale later in the year.

To order a copy, please contact mikerowson@medact.org or call 020-7272-2020.

**New Projects & Partnerships at SatelLife**

SatelLife, together with SatelLife Healthnet-Kenya, has successfully launched the Regional Information Technology Training Center (RITTC) in Nairobi and trained more than 100 East African health care workers to use the tools of electronic information exchange. The project was funded by a grant from the World Bank’s InfoDev Initiative.

A new partnership between SatelLife and the WorldSpace Foundation has led to a successful trial of a digital radio system that enables the transfer of large volumes of information to receivers all over Africa and allows downloading, storage, and retrieval of years worth of critical information.

SatelLife has also entered into a partnership with the non-profit organization Volunteers in Technical Assistance (VITA) and the corporation WAVIX that will result in a return to the use of low-earth-orbit satellites in bringing affordable communications to health professionals in the most remote areas. New, smaller, cheaper, and more user-friendly ground-stations are in production and may be deployed within the coming year.

**IPPNW Board members Drs. Liz Waterston and Monika Brodmann. (Photo: Lynn Martin-IPPNW)**
Like many IPPNW supporters, Lawrence Egbert is a medical doctor. He is an anesthesiologist from Maryland who, with his wife, Ellen Barfield, is an enthusiastic supporter of peace and social justice activism.

Dr. Egbert first became affiliated with IPPNW in 1989 because of his deep concern about the nuclear threat. As he has said, "having nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert is the state of being ready to kill massive numbers of people for what the nuclear establishment perceives as social good. It's immoral and nuclear weapons must be banned."

In words and deeds, Dr. Egbert applies the definitions of "peace" and "social justice" as seen in the work done by IPPNW and its affiliates to that done by the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. As an anesthesiologist, Dr. Egbert was horrified to learn that the State of Texas was using the very same anesthetic agents he used to help save lives to execute criminals, just as the military uses scientific and medical knowledge — once sought for lifesaving purposes — to develop weapons of mass destruction. Changes must be made, and Dr. Egbert knows they are best achieved by channeling outrage into action.

An insurance salesman once recommended to Dr. Egbert, "Why not invest a good portion of your income today so that you can do good work in your retirement years?" This got the Egberts thinking, "Why not do good work today?" IPPNW quickly became one of many worthy organizations that have benefited from this conviction. In addition to their support for IPPNW, the pair have devoted time and money to organizations like Voices in the Wilderness, Veterans for Peace, and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Dr. Egbert has worked for Doctors Without Borders in Sri Lanka, Lebanon, and Kosovo, and for Physicians for Human Rights. Last year, he and Ellen were awarded the "Wilton Peace Prize," an honor given annually by the Unitarian Universalist Association to individuals or groups in recognition of their contribution to peace and human progress.

As a member of IPPNW's Circle of Sustainers, Dr. Egbert contributes through a monthly electronic donation that is easily processed by credit card or electronic funds transfer. IPPNW is pleased to provide for Dr. Egbert, and all IPPNW Sustainers, IPPNW action alerts, special publications, and the IPPNW newsletter Vital Signs. IPPNW Sustainers save time, postage, and paper while helping to reduce administrative costs. Most importantly, Dr. Egbert and others help enable IPPNW to concentrate on our shared concerns: the work of promoting peace through health. IPPNW is proud to have Dr. Egbert as a member of our Circle of Sustainers and pleased to recognize physician-activists like him for their good work, today and everyday.
In the wake of the terrorist bombings in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam in 1998, many people were left wondering if the threat of nuclear weapons was still relevant. The question of whether the world should continue to disarm or whether the threat of nuclear weapons had become a distant memory was debated on television talk shows, in policy papers, and in newspapers around the world.

The attacks in Africa came just two years after the United States announced its intention to develop a missile defense system. The so-called "Star Wars" proposal, which was initially met with skepticism, quickly gained momentum in the United States. Polls showed that a majority of Americans supported the development of a missile defense system, and the issue became a major point of contention in the 2000 presidential campaign.

The timing couldn't have been better, but the battle was far from over. We must convince the public and policy-makers that missile defense is a bad idea, just as it was when it was first proposed in the 1980s. Our work is cut out for us because the well-funded public relations machine of the pro-nuclear forces is working overtime to win the PR battle. A February 2001 Newsweek poll found that 60 percent of the American public polled support building a missile defense system. As the national and international debate on NMD heats up, we must be ready to communicate the grim realities of nuclear warfare and convince the public and policy-makers that the world will only be safer when nuclear weapons are banned.

IPPNW's Swedish affiliate has generously contributed seed funding for this project. Other major sponsors will receive prominent credit during the beginning and ending of the film and in print advertising in major magazines. To find out how you can support this important project, please check the box below and we will send you sponsorship information.

Help us produce and distribute a new IPPNW/Independent PBS documentary.

You will be recognized in the film's credit as a sponsor.

IPPNW will use this program to educate and activate the large segments of the population that don't know the facts about nuclear weapons in the world today. Our physician-activists will communicate the grim realities of nuclear warfare and convince the public and policy-makers that the only cure is prevention. The core medical message --- that there has never been and will never be a meaningful medical response to a nuclear explosion and that the only cure is prevention --- will be the central message of this documentary.

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The Many Dimensions of Human Fallibility (2001)

Medicine & Global Survival: Why Mistakes Happen Even When the Stakes Are High: The Many Dimensions of Human Fallibility (2001)

Medicine & Global Survival: Medical First Response to Bioterrorism (2000)

Medicine & Global Survival: Statistical Analysis of Nuclear Disarmament (1999)


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Please send a free IPPNW nuclear abolition bumper sticker with my publication order.

Please send article on Bombs Away Campaign.
VITAL SIGNS
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War
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IPPNW is a non-partisan international federation of physicians’ organizations dedicated to research, education, and advocacy relevant to the prevention of nuclear war. To this end, IPPNW seeks to prevent all wars, to promote non-violent conflict resolution, and to reduce the effects of war on health, development, and the environment.

Visit our website at www.ippnw.org

On the Calendar

9-20 June 2001
Global Day of Action. Events to be held by IANSA members worldwide. Contact: Brian Rawson at brawson@ippnw.org

9-10 July 2001
UN Conference on Illicit Traffic in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects at the UN in New York. Contact: Brian Rawson at brawson@ippnw.org

4-12 August 2001
IANSA General Assembly in Aalborg, Denmark. Contact: Anna Hellman at annahellman_esq@hotmail.com.

September 2001
Children’s Summit on Children and Armed Conflict

6-8 September 2001
IPPNW Latin America Regional Meeting in Cuba. Contact: Dr. Carlos Pazos at pazos@infomed.sld.cu

11-18 September 2001
Third Meeting of State Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty in Malaga, Nicaragua. Contact: Liz Bernstein at banemnow@icbl.org

18 September 2001
United Nations General Assembly opens. Contact: Metav Dalal at mdalal@ippnw.org

27-30 September 2001
Safe Nuclear Disarmament. Contact: Medact and ORG

28-30 September 2001
Aiming For Prevention. IPPNW International Medical Conference on Small Arms, Gun Violence, and Injury in Helsinki, Finland. Contact: Brian Rawson at brawson@ippnw.org

12-14 November 2001
IPPNW Board Meeting at Arlie House. Contact: Naidene Waller at nwaller@ippnw.org

15-18 November 2001
PSR Board Meeting
Contact: Alyson Michael at alysonm@psr.org

1-5 May 2002
IPPNW-PSR 15th World Congress
Contact: Naidene Waller at nwaller@ippnw.org

Anniversaries

16 July 2001
56th Anniversary of the first nuclear explosion, the “Trinity” test at Alamogordo, New Mexico

7 August 2001
56th Anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

3 December 2001
Fourth Anniversary of the Opening for Signature of the 1997 Landmines Convention

10 December 2001
Human Rights Day

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