

GLOBAL CONCEPTS



www.kcglobalconcepts.org

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MANNY'S CORNER

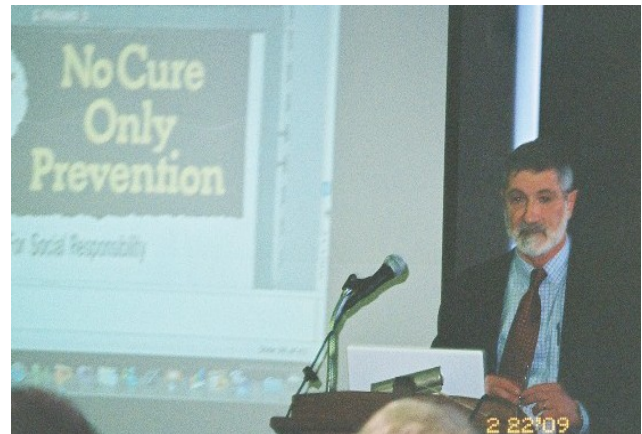
Educating for the Global Implication of Nuclear Weapons: Cure or Prevention

A Summary of Ira Helfand, M.D. Lecture
February 22, 2009

The growing danger of accelerated nuclear proliferation has created a security dilemma in the minds of many in the United States. There are many who are recognizing that the most effective approach to proliferation and reduction of nuclear danger lies in a universal reduction and elimination of all forms of nuclear development. On February 22 Global and Multicultural Education Center, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and the Village Presbyterian Peace and Justice Committees co-sponsored a program that featured a presentation by Dr. Ira Helfand on the global implication of nuclear use. The following summary of Dr. Helfand' comments, with his decades long background as a physician of emergency medicine and as a member of International Council of Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, should provide a glance at this universal dangerous issue and its Global Impact on Climate, Agriculture and Health.

Utilizing an extensive power point presentation, he focused both on major

powers as well as on possible but slim regional nuclear conflict. Reviewing the history of such regional conflicts as India and Pakistan involving a few Hiroshima sized bombs has major global implication. Besides significant radioactive contamination that would have devastating results and major impact on "weather patterns" due to explosion, fire and cooling of the earth atmosphere, lasting for a number of years, there will be reduction in the growing season, eliminating the growth of certain crops and reduction of essential foods for living population internationally.



Providing an example of the 1815 eruption of the Indonesian Volcano Tambora, the largest recoded eruption in history, Dr. Helfand pointed to documented data in cooling that resulted from Tambora, affecting North America and Europe by significant shortening of growing season, extensive frost damage to crops, increase in prices of various crops and slaughter of livestock due to lack of food stocks. Dr. Helfand pointed to the low density of

population at the time and greater harvest prior to eruption, preventing major disaster with a few exceptions.

In today's international climate, greater population, global market, trade barriers, enormous poverty and hunger and global malnutrition, a sudden prolonged cooling may trigger starvation particularly affecting millions of children around the globe. In addition, the smallest change in climate not only results in massive starvation, but also major outbreaks of "epidemics of infectious diseases" affecting the international health problem. Recognizing the impossibility of accurately estimating the number of deaths and starvation, there is much possibility of civil strife and food riots world-wide. To reduce such catastrophe, Dr. Helfand emphasized the hope for a "WORLD FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS." To achieve such a goal, he stressed the necessity of

1. American Leadership to form a global consensus for global disarmament.
2. The need for U.S. ratification of Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and Multilateral diplomacy approach.
3. Political climate receptive for reduction of such weapons.
4. Taking nuclear weapons "off" high alert and taking steps toward a "Zero" nuclear arsenal.

In final analysis there is NO CURE, ONLY PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR.

Quote of the Issue:

"THE PRACTICE OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IS ONE OF THE MOST VITAL AND ARTISTIC OF HUMAN ACTIONS."

Thich Nhat Hanh



From our CRC Coalition:

The Campaign for U.S. Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is pleased to announce that our National Symposium will be held on June 1-2, 2009 in Washington, DC at the Georgetown University Law Center.

The focus of the 2009 Symposium, The Convention on the Rights of the Child: Why It is Time to Ratify, is to look at the Convention through the lens of its impact on U.S. children. To facilitate a better understanding of the CRC's applicability, the conference will include six interactive panel discussions that will explore the Convention in the context of the following topics:

- Education
- Health
- Needs, Rights, and the Human Family
- Participation
- Special Protection Measure
- Supportive Environments for Children

For more information and registration visit
<http://childrightscampaign.org/>

Did you know... that on March 1, 1999, the **Comprehensive Mine Ban Treaty** came into force?

In the last decade the number of participating countries has reached 156, or 80 percent of the world's nations.

Sometimes referred to as the Ottawa Convention, the treaty bans antipersonnel landmines, dealing not only with mine use, production and trade, but also with victim assistance, mine clearance and stockpile destruction.

UNA-USA continues to be a key contributor to the treaty through its Adopt-A-Minefield® campaign. To date, the campaign has raised over \$26 million for mine action, cleared 1,000 minefields and helped thousands of survivors.

This year is critical for landmine clearance. Marking the 10th anniversary of the Comprehensive Mine Ban Treaty, the signatories will meet in December in Colombia. At this meeting, treaty signers must demonstrate that they have de-mined their own land.

The number of landmine casualties has decreased in the last 10 years from 25,000 to 6,000 people annually, despite 37 countries not having signed the treaty, including China, Egypt, Finland, India, Israel, Pakistan, Russia and the United States.

Quote of the Issue:

“HISTORY, DESPITE ITS WRENCHING PAIN, CANNOT BE UNLIVED, BUT IF FACED WITH COURAGE, NEED NOT BE LIVED AGAIN.”

Maya Angelou

Did You Know... That there is a United Nations Intensive Summer Study Program, known as Seton Hall University summer project, designed for graduate students and advanced undergraduates. This week-long program, now in its eighth year, familiarizes students with the inner workings of the U.N. by bringing them together with distinguished practitioners working in the field of multilateral diplomacy. Participants attend official sessions at U.N. Headquarters, such as meetings of the Security Council, as well as briefings at the United Nations Association of the USA. Two enrollment options are available: credit and non-credit. Successful completion of either option results in a certificate from the Whitehead School of Diplomacy. In addition, the credit option allows students to earn three semester credit hours from Seton Hall University.

For more information see <
www.unausa.org/education>.



Calendar

March 22-28, 2009, **World Water Week**, to raise awareness of water and sanitation needs around the globe.

April 6-8, 2009, Food Aid Symposium, Weston Crown Center Hotel, for more information contact UNA-Greater Kansas City at <www.una_kc.org>

Wednesday, April 22, 2009, EARTH DAY

Sunday, April 26, 2009, 2:00-4:00p.m. G.A.M.E. Annual meeting
Antioch Library at Shawnee Mission Parkway and Antioch.

May 3, 2009, World Press Freedom Day

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Newsletter of the Global And Multicultural Education Center (G.A.M.E.)

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Join the World: Become a member of G.A.M.E.

The strength of any organization depends upon the level of support and financial resources provided by its members and friends. G.A.M.E. is no exception. Please use this form to join us today.

Membership Form:

Date: _____

Patron..... \$ 30.00 _____

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Address: _____ City, State _____ Zip Code _____

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I would like to contribute an additional \$ _____ for educational use of the organization.

Your membership and contributions are tax exempt.

We thank you for your support.

Mission Statement: G.A.M.E. assists in the enhancement of knowledge of global interdependence and awareness and appreciation of our common humanity.