

# LAWYERS' COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR POLICY (LCNP)

N E W S L E T T E R

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## Nuclear Weapons: Threat Remains

The *New York Times* (2/25/93) reported that "General Lee Butler and his planners at the United States Strategic Command, the nerve center of America's nuclear strike force, are testing computer models that could enable the President to aim nuclear weapons at third world nations that threaten the interests of the United States or its allies...[while] casting a wary eye toward the former Soviet republics." General Butler is redefining nuclear policy to include "the possible use of nuclear arms against terrorist states or rogue leaders."

The threat of use of nuclear weapons is still very real.

Richard Falk, Professor of International Law at Princeton University, believes that while the threat of accidental use of nuclear weapons has diminished considerably, the possibility of a planned use of nuclear weapons is perhaps greater now than during the Cold War because there is no longer a likelihood that a country using nuclear weapons will, as a result, have nuclear weapons also used against them. "One finds in the aftermath of the Cold War a new look at nuclearism in North-South settings that is more dangerous than anything that had occurred previously." Speech WCPLaunch, Geneva (May 14-15, 1992).

The highly celebrated reductions in nuclear weapons under the START II agreements are not so remarkable considering that even if fully implemented, there will remain more nuclear weapons in 2003 than when the Non-Proliferation Treaty was signed in 1968. The explosive force of nuclear weapons remaining will equal approximately

200,000 Hiroshima sized bombs. *Defense Monitor* Vol. XXII, No. 1 (1993).

Despite conventions prohibiting chemical and biological weapons, there are no concrete plans or even suggestions by the principal nuclear powers for complete prohibition of nuclear weapons.

The end of the Cold War and the revitalization of the United Nations as an agent for the development of international security offer an opportunity for eliminating nuclear weapons. Together we must ensure that world leaders do not let this opportunity slip away,

LCNP has stepped up its efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons through the application of international law in legal institutions.

The World Court Project, our major campaign for 1993 and 1994, is rapidly gathering momentum (see the enclosed first issue of the *World Court Project Report*). This project is likely to result in a Court hearing in 1994 and a decision by 1995. A favorable opinion will contribute significantly to nuclear disarmament.

We are also increasing our campaign for a nuclear test ban, in this critical year for testing (see page 2).

We are therefore planning to produce a monthly *World Court Project Report* in addition to our quarterly newsletter. If you would like to continue receiving these, please fill in the form on page 2.

Please join our effort to achieve a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons.

## European Parliament Supports Test Ban

On March 11, the European Parliament voted in favor of a resolution supporting the moratoria on nuclear testing by the USA, France, and Russia, and urging the negotiation of a Comprehensive Test Ban.

A similar resolution in the European Parliament last year was unsuccessful. Ms. Solange Fernex, a member of the Parliament for the French Green party, in a note to the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and to the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, said that "This result is clearly due to the lobbying of yourself and your affiliates."

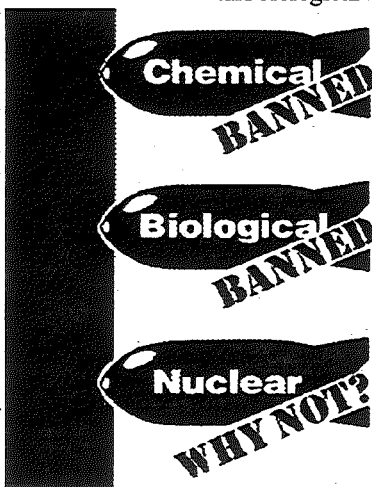
## IALANA Arms Trade Treaty Conference New York, May 22-23

On May 22-23, the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA) will hold a conference of international lawyers and arms control experts to discuss a Draft Convention on the Monitoring and Reduction of the International Arms Trade.

The draft convention aims to reduce the use of violence in conflicts by eliminating the arms trade and limiting arms production.

Once it is revised, LCNP and the World Order Models Project will present the Draft Convention to United Nations delegations and then advocate its adoption.

For more information contact LCNP.



# PLEASE DON'T BLOW IT, BILL!

On April 4, the New York Coalition for a Comprehensive Test Ban placed a full page advertisement in the *New York Times* urging people to write letters to President Clinton asking him to extend the nuclear testing moratorium and to begin negotiations on a Comprehensive Test Ban.

Unfortunately (or on purpose?) the advertisement was buried in the Metro section so it is not likely that as many people saw the ad as was hoped.

The Coalition for a Nuclear Test Ban, formed at the initiative of LCNP, is sending full size copies of the advertisement to all Senators and Congresspeople. Smaller copies are available from LCNP for distribution to friends, peace groups, environmental groups, etc.

This is a critical time in the campaign to end testing. The US moratorium could expire in July unless the President is persuaded to continue it. The Department of Energy, which conducts the tests, assumes that testing will restart. In their recent budget request to Congress, they include a request for \$461 million for testing in 1994 and \$1.3 billion for research and development in the nuclear weapons laboratories.



*New York Times Ad (4/4/93)*

\$419 million has been allocated for testing in 1993.

LCNP met with the Chinese Delegation to the United Nations to urge them not to conduct any nuclear tests while the nuclear testing moratoria are in place. We will soon be meeting with the French and Russian Delegations to urge them to extend their moratoria beyond July.

For more information contact LCNP.

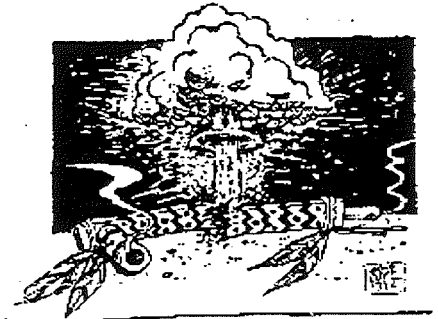
**Please write to President Clinton and ask him to extend the moratorium!**

## Western Shoshone Elder Jailed over Land Dispute

In 1950, the US Government appropriated over 800,000 acres of Western Shoshone land for nuclear tests. This violated the Treaty of Ruby Valley, destroyed much of their land, and exposed many of their people to radiation.

Recently the land struggle intensified. A Western Shoshone elder, Clifford Dann, was convicted for grazing horses on Western Shoshone land without a permit from the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Western Shoshone maintain that they do not need permits since the Treaty of Ruby Valley gives them sovereignty over their land. They claim that the BLM restrictions on grazing are yet another attempt to destroy the Western Shoshone community. Dann says that "By taking away our livelihood and our lands they are taking away our lives."

For more information contact LCNP or the Western Shoshone Defense Project, General Delivery, Crescent Valley, Nevada 89821, (702) 468-0230.



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