

**American Friends Service Committee  
National Peace Education Division**

**STATEMENT  
NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE  
APRIL, 1995**

**Peace Education Division and Quaker United Nations Office Working Group**

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Committed to nonviolence and seeking a world in which conflicts are resolved without war, the American Friends Service Committee welcomes the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference as a unique opportunity for the peoples of the world to impress upon their governments the need to move decisively toward "the elimination from national arsenals of nuclear weapons and the means of their delivery"-- a goal enunciated in the introduction to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

We are aware that non-nuclear-weapon States have expressed their concerns that the nuclear-weapon States have not sufficiently carried out their commitment to nuclear disarmament under the terms of the treaty. We are also aware that the two nuclear superpowers, the United States and Russia, argue that their treaties in recent years and the resulting disarmament activities do constitute a serious implementation of their treaty obligations. Yet even if START II is implemented, the United States and Russia will, together, have 7,000 strategic nuclear warheads plus hundreds of tactical nuclear weapons, many with the destructive power of the bombs that demolished Hiroshima and Nagasaki and killed hundreds of thousands of people. In addition, the nuclear arsenals of the other declared nuclear powers (Britain, France and China) have grown beyond what all but a few could anticipate in 1968 when the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty was signed, while other nations have either developed nuclear capacity or have the potential to do so within weeks or months.

The danger of a superpower nuclear exchange has diminished as a result of the end of the Cold War; but the existence of nuclear arsenals and threats to use them, which have been made by the United States, the Soviet Union and Russia, Britain, Israel and Pakistan, continue to hold humanity hostage and serve to encourage other nations to join the "nuclear club". It is therefore with the greatest urgency that we call upon the parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference to use this gathering to decide on actions, and a time line for the actions, that will speedily implement the commitment laid out in the treaty: "effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control" (Article VI).

Among the steps which we see as vital for reaching this goal are:

- a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty;
- an end to the production of fissile materials for weapons purposes;

- an end to the production of new nuclear warheads;
- a no-first-use agreement by the declared nuclear powers, followed later by the conclusion of a treaty banning the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons;
- cuts in the nuclear arsenals of the U.S. and Russia substantially deeper than those agreed to in the START I and START II treaties, and significant reductions in the nuclear arsenals of the other nuclear-weapon states;
- creation of additional regional nuclear-free zones;
- adequate and internationally guaranteed verification measures to provide assurance that the agreed-on actions are carried out.

In Article IV, the non-nuclear-weapon States that are party to the Treaty agreed to forego the acquisition of nuclear weapons in return for assistance in developing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Some have already begun this development. We believe that the richer nations have a moral responsibility to assist economically poorer, developing nations so that their people can attain or maintain a humane standard of living. Technology sharing and the equitable distribution of energy resources should be goals of the international community. But we are deeply concerned about the long-term economic and environmental costs of nuclear energy, and the potential links between nuclear energy materials and nuclear weapons proliferation. So we encourage the development of sustainable, renewable environmentally friendly energy sources in both developed and developing nations.

We are encouraged by hopeful movements towards disarmament in recent years:

- The establishment of nuclear-free zones, with treaties already signed for Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco), South Pacific (Treaty of Rarotonga), Seabed, Antarctica, Outer Space; drafted in detail for Africa; proposed within U.N. resolutions for South Atlantic, Southeast Asia, Indian Ocean Zone of Peace, and the Middle East. We note that the United States has signed all the treaties in the first category except the Treaty of Rarotonga, and we urge that the U.S. sign that.
- The treaties between Russia and the U.S. that have resulted in dismantlement of some nuclear weapons;
- South Africa's destruction of its small nuclear arsenal.

These actions demonstrate that disarmament is not some impossible ideal. The treaties for the prohibition of chemical and biological weapons can serve as models for a treaty for the abolition of nuclear weapons. We call upon the nations signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to set out an agenda of actions which will result in nothing short of the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Today thousands of these weapons remain in nations' arsenals, ready for use. Some suspected or threshold nuclear states are not parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and so their weapons activities -- actual and potential -- remain outside the reach of the Treaty. The legacies of past nuclear weapons testing, production, and use remain: radiation victims; environmental

contamination; massive amounts of radioactive waste for which there is no satisfactory disposal process.

We must delay no longer in seeking an end to the era of nuclear weapons and to the world-destroying threat which these weapons still hold over our heads. Nuclear weapons have been a given of our existence for almost fifty years. Now we must say to our governments: "Fifty Years is Enough!" Nuclear weapons had no legitimacy fifty years ago; they have no legitimacy today.

The hope of abolishing nuclear weapons will be realized only if the international community supports this goal and empowers an international authority, composed of nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States, to assure that the steps to the goal are carried out honestly and fully by each nation. We call on the peoples of all nations to speak out and to act so that their governments will respond to the will of the people by moving swiftly to realize the hopes embodied in the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the first U.N. special session on nuclear disarmament, and other international resolutions.

Let us go forward together, in hope, committed to nonviolence, seeking peace and justice and sustainable development for all peoples.

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