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“Without concerted action, we may face a cascade of nuclear proliferation. There is also the risk that such weapons will fall into the hands of terrorists and other non-State actors. Revelations of clandestine networks trafficking in nuclear materials and technology have exposed a major loophole in the non-proliferation regime.”

— Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in a speech in Hiroshima, Japan marking the 60 anniversary of the bombings, August 8, 2005.

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION FACT SHEET

Overview

Eight states have successfully detonated nuclear weapons: US, Russia, China, Britain, France, India, Pakistan and North Korea. (1)

Under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), five of these states — U.S., Russia, China, Britain and France — are considered “nuclear weapon states”. (1)

The other three states — India, Pakistan and N. Korea — are non-signatory states and are not bound by internationally accepted safeguards. (1)

Israel is widely suspected of possessing several hundred nuclear weapons. (1)

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT):

Comprised of Three Main Pillars:

Non-proliferation: Nuclear weapon states (NWS, states that possessed nuclear weapons at the time the treaty was opened) agree not to transfer “nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices” technology to other states. Non-nuclear weapons states agree to neither seek, nor develop, nuclear weapons.

Disarmament: NWS agree to pursue plans to reduce and liquidate their stockpiles. This obligation has still not been fulfilled by any of the NWS states.

The right to peacefully use nuclear technology: Gives the right to countries to use nuclear technology for peaceful energy purposes (1).

The 2006 US-India Nuclear Deal

REWARDS India by permitting nuclear cooperation with a nation that has never agreed to follow the nuclear non-proliferation commitments of the NPT. (10)

UNDERCUTS the NPT. (9)

Provides India with “dual use” nuclear material from the US, which can be further processed to make nuclear weapons (9).

India alone determines which reactors are classified as “civilian” and are thus allowed to be inspected by international regulators; all other reactors, most of which can be used for military purposes, are off-limits to inspection. (9)

At the present time, 8 nuclear reactors are already officially off-limits. (9)

India does not have to abide by the international conditions of the NPT. (9)

There is no set limit to the amount of nukes India is permitted to make.

Estimated that it could build up to 50 nuclear weapons a year. (10)

In August 2006, the United States sanctioned two Indian companies that were involved in supplying Iran’s suspected weapons and missile programs. (10)

Unsettling Statistics

\$27 billion: Amount the US spends annually to be prepared to fight a nuclear war with Russia. (7)

9,962: Number of nuclear warheads in the US arsenal in 2006. (2)

5,736: Number of US warheads ready to launch on a moment’s notice. (2)

28,000: Total number of known nuclear weapons around the globe. (3)

Confirmed incidents of illegal trafficking in nuclear or radioactive material in 2004, the last year data was made available: **121**

Number of years Al Qaida has tried to acquire or make nuclear weapons: **at least 10** (4)

Number of nuclear bombs used in warfare in the past: **2**

Deaths resulting from the two bombs: **214,000** (140,000 in Hiroshima and 74,000 in Nagasaki). (1)

Average yield of a modern-day nuclear warhead: **20 megatons** (20 million tons of TNT). (5)

Yield of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima: **13 kilotons** (13,000 tons of TNT). (5)

4.5: The duration, in days, of a 5,000-megaton war, in which one Hiroshima-sized bomb was dropped every second. (6)

800,000: estimated number of deaths that a 150 kiloton nuclear weapon — approx the size of 11 Hiroshima explosions — detonated in midtown NYC would cause (75,000 within the first second alone). (8)

Injuries estimated to be inflicted by such a blast: **900,000** (8)

Source List

(1) Wikipedia: nuclear weapons.

(2) www.nuclearweaponarchive.org

(3) Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. www.carnegieendowment.org

(4) PBS: www.pbs.org/newshour

(5) www.atomicarchive.com

(6) Primed and Ready by Bruce Blair, 24 January 2007, www.thebulletin.metapress.com

(7) Center for Defense Information. www.cdi.org/nuclear/facts-at-a-glance.cfm

(8) A report funded by the National Science Digital Library and posted on the website atomicarchive.com www.atomicarchive.com/Example/Example1.shtml

(9) An article written by Thomas Graham Jr., Leonor Tomero, Leonard Weiss for Foreign Policy, 07/2006 <http://www.cfr.org/publication/9663/>

(10) Council for a Livable World <http://www.clw.org/policy/india/>