

Editorial

## The Hypocrisy of the Imperialists on Missile Testing

On September 1, the United States conducted a test of its missile defense system. A 54-foot interceptor missile was shot out of an underground silo at Vandenberg Air Force Base on the central California coast and destroyed a target missile launched from Kodiak Island, Alaska. On September 9, Russia test-launched an intercontinental ballistic missile from a nuclear-powered submarine in the area of the North Pole. The nuclear submarine K-84 launched a missile carrying three test warheads. The warheads struck targets in a testing range in the Archangelsk region on the Barents Sea.

These missile tests are part and parcel of the ongoing moves of the United States and Russia

towards modernization of their nuclear and conventional military arsenals. Contrary to their disarmament obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the nuclear-weapon states have shifted towards having fewer, but more potent, weapons and their current politico-military doctrines openly embrace the notion of using these weapons of mass destruction in conflicts.

Only two months ago, the UN Security Council, which includes the United States and Russia, passed a resolution condemning the July 5 ballistic missile tests carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The resolution demanded that the DPRK suspend all activities related to its ballistic

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## U.S. Imperialism Further Isolated Over Iran Nuclear Issue

The United States is becoming further isolated and exposed in the international community for its unjust stand towards Iran and its nuclear programme, especially for its falsification of the known facts, for its open and veiled military threats, and for its pressure to impose economic and other sanctions on Iran.

On September 14, the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) met in Vienna for one of its regularly scheduled meetings. The Malaysian envoy to the IAEA read out a statement from the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in support of Iran's right to engage in nuclear activities for peaceful purposes, including uranium processing and enrichment, and in support of unconditional talks between the Group of 5+1 and

Iran to come up with a long term solution to the crisis. The Non-Aligned Movement with a membership of 118 countries, represents two-thirds of the members of the United Nations.

On the same day, *Reuters* reported that a senior aide to IAEA Director-General Mohamed El Baradei had sent a letter to the head of the U.S. House of Representatives' Select Committee on Intelligence alleging that its August 23 congressional report contained serious distortions of IAEA findings on Iran's activity. It said the report falsely described Iran as having enriched uranium at its pilot centrifuge plant to weapons-grade level in April, whereas IAEA inspectors had made clear that Iran had enriched only

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to a low level usable for nuclear power reactor fuel. According to *Reuters* the letter took strong exception to the incorrect and misleading assertion that the IAEA opted to remove a senior safeguards inspector for supposedly concluding the purpose of Iran's program was to build weapons. The congressional report contained an outrageous and dishonest suggestion that the inspector was dumped for having not adhered to an alleged IAEA policy barring its officials from telling the whole truth about Iran. IAEA spokeswoman Melissa Fleming was quoted by *Reuters* as saying: "We felt obliged to put the record straight with regard to the facts on what we have reported on Iran. It's a matter of the integrity of the IAEA."

At the same time as this report appeared, United Nations spokesman Yves Sorokobi, reacting to the refusal by the U.S. to grant an entry visa to an Iranian minister attending a UN conference in New York, stated that the U.S. was obligated, as the host country, to do so. The U.S. refused to grant the entry visa to Iranian Interior Minister Mostafa Pourmohammadi who was invited to the ongoing High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, taking place in New York on September 14-15. Sorokobi would not indicate what steps the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan could take to force U.S. officials to act upon their obligations. Iran immediately lodged a protest to Kofi Annan. A letter was sent by Pourmohammadi, and submitted to the UN by Iran's permanent representative, Mohammad-Javad Zarif who has demanded that the letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly. The letter referred to the failure of the U.S. government to grant a visa as an act "which runs counter to its international obligations as the host country of the United Nations Organization." This is not the first time that U.S. government has refused visas to Iran's delegates attending UN meetings in New York.

On September 15, the Foreign Minister's Council of the 25-member European Union met in Brussels. They received a briefing by EU High Representative Javier Solana on his meeting with the Secretary-General of the Iranian Supreme National Security Council, Dr. Ali Larijani, on September 9-10 and

subsequent meetings at a senior level. The council issued a statement which noted that Iran had not complied with the Security Council resolution, but stated that the "Ministers welcome the High Representative's consultations with Dr. Larijani to explore the possibility of opening negotiations with Iran. They supported these efforts and stressed the importance of reaching an early resolution." Erkki Tuomioja, Finnish Foreign Minister, whose country holds the current EU presidency, told a press conference that: "We gave our full support to Solana's efforts to find a breakthrough for a diplomatic solution." Solana told reporters at the conference that: "I think that I can say honestly that we are making progress. It doesn't mean that everything has been resolved. That will be an exaggeration but we are really making progress."

On September 16, the representatives of states participating in 14th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Havana, Cuba passed a resolution reiterating their position on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation with specific reference to the Iran nuclear issue. The resolution reaffirmed the basic inalienable right of all states to develop research, production and use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes without any discrimination and in conformity with their respective legal obligations. It stated that nothing should be interpreted that inhibits or restricts this right of states to develop atomic energy for peaceful purposes. It also reaffirmed that the choices and decisions of states in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear technology and its fuel cycle policies must be respected. The resolution further demanded that Israel accede to the NPT without delay and promptly place all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards. The resolution also called for the establishment of a comprehensive, multilaterally-negotiated treaty prohibiting attacks or threat of attacks on nuclear facilities devoted to peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The representatives of NAM expressed their conviction that the only way to resolve the Iran nuclear issue is to resume negotiations without any preconditions and to enhance cooperation with the involvement of all necessary parties to promote international confidence with the view of facilitating agency work on resolving the outstanding issues.

# Fiftieth IAEA General Conference Special Event

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is holding a special event from September 19-21 on the issue of nuclear fuel supply as part of its Fiftieth General Conference in Vienna. The topic is "New Framework for the Utilization of Nuclear Energy in the 21st Century: Assurances of Supply and Non-Proliferation". High-level technical and political delegations from the agency's 140 member states are expected to attend. The special event planners have scheduled the first day of the conference for political statements by ministers and the second day for working level experts who will explain the technical issues. The final day of the special event is for discussion and recommendations for a road map for further actions.

The meeting will consider proposals to guarantee supplies of nuclear fuel to all countries. For many years the developing countries have been demanding that the nuclear-advanced countries honour their commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to provide others with a guaranteed supply of nuclear equipment, materials and technology for peaceful purposes. The nuclear-advanced states have refused to abide by the NPT and are even proposing to restrict, by law, the access of developing countries to this technology.

A nuclear "fuel bank" - whereby the IAEA administers a nuclear fuel reserve - is among the proposals that will be considered. A press release from the IAEA states that: "A fuel reserve would assure a back-up supply for power reactors throughout the world on a non-discriminatory, non-political basis reducing the need for countries to develop their own uranium enrichment technologies at a time when concerns about nuclear proliferation are growing." The IAEA explains that such a fuel bank would not replace the existing commercial market in nuclear fuels but would be a "back-up or reserve mechanism". According to the IAEA, the United States and Russia are prepared to contribute nuclear fuel to a "multinational fuel bank" administered by the IAEA. However, the United

States, Russia, Britain, France, Germany and the Netherlands, which have the largest commercial uranium enrichment facilities in the world, are mainly interested in monopolizing this economically and militarily strategic industry for themselves rather than sharing it with the IAEA or any other country or international organization.

The idea of nuclear fuel banks date back to the early years of the IAEA and the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Today, there is a renewed interest in this idea. For example, on January 30, 2006 Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed a system of international centres on Russian territory that would provide nuclear fuel cycle services, including enrichment. One week later, U.S. President George Bush announced a Global Nuclear Energy Partnership which includes "establishing a fuel services program that would allow developing nations to acquire and use nuclear energy economically while minimizing the risk of nuclear proliferation." On July 15, Putin and Bush issued a joint statement at the G-8 Summit in Russia supporting each other's initiatives and declaring their intent "to work together, actively involving the IAEA, to allow all nations to enjoy the benefits of nuclear energy without pursuing uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing capabilities."

One factor driving renewed interest in this idea is the growing demand of many countries for nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, especially for the generation of electricity. The nuclear-weapon states, and other nuclear suppliers such as Canada, would like to strengthen and expand their market share in this sector. Aside from the profits at stake for the nuclear industries of these countries, the withholding of nuclear technology by the nuclear-advanced countries is a way to hamper the independent economic development of the developing countries, as well as to blackmail these countries at crucial times. In recent years, some developing countries, such as Iran, have managed to establish their own

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missile programme and re-establish a moratorium on missile launching. It expressed concern that such systems have the potential to deliver nuclear, chemical or biological payloads and stated that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, constitutes a threat to international peace and security. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was quick to condemn the tests. Canada's Foreign Minister, Peter MacKay, said the missile launches represented a major threat to peace and stability in Northeast Asia and undermined global efforts aimed at halting the development and spread of the means of delivery for weapons of mass destruction.

By contrast, the UN Security Council, which is under the thumb of the big powers, did not bring forward a resolution against the American and Russian missile tests. Kofi Annan did not raise his voice against the tests. The Canadian government was conspicuously silent. Canada's Foreign Minister Peter MacKay did not lodge a protest against either country, nor did he raise the issue at the United Nations, even though these missile tests took place in close proximity to Canada. This is the real problem. The countries that are the real threat to international peace and security, such as the United States and Russia, are not accountable to the rest of the world. They are armed to the teeth with every kind of weapon and they use them, or threaten to use them, against governments that stand in their way. At the same time, they selectively proliferate certain of these weapons to their allies and to mercenary armies to fight proxy wars.

If the Canadian government was serious about contributing to international peace and security, it would first and foremost demand the disarmament of the big powers and oppose their aggressions against Iraq and Afghanistan, and their threats against Iran and the DPRK. It would withdraw from all aggressive military alliances like NATO and NORAD, withdraw its own troops from Afghanistan, and refuse to participate in further aggressions on behalf of the United States and NATO.

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nuclear industries despite the obstacles put in their way by the United States and other countries. The United States and their allies are now trying to secure their control over this technology by seeking changes to the Non-Proliferation Treaty which would have the effect of restricting the right to produce nuclear fuel, as well as the right to possess nuclear fuel cycle technology, to a few select countries while preventing other countries from having these capabilities.

The United States is disingenuous when it claims that its main concern is the proliferation of nuclear technology that could be used to develop nuclear weapons. It has the largest armaments industry, both conventional and nuclear, in the entire world. It actively proliferates dual-purpose nuclear technology among its allies like Israel, India, South Korea and Japan. While it is making pronouncements against the proliferation of uranium enrichment facilities, it is making deals on the side with certain allies to allow their entry into the uranium enrichment business. On August 17, Dennis Spurgeon, assistant secretary for nuclear power at the U.S. Department of Energy, told reporters of *The Australian* that: "I think Australia, and Canada for that matter, play a special role in world nuclear affairs because obviously you are two countries that have the majority of economically recoverable uranium resources." He said that the U.S. would make an exception to its non-proliferation stand for Australia and Canada.

## **Modern Communism**

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**Editor: Ken Kaltornyk**

***To contact the Manitoba Branch of CPC(M-L):***

**Fax: 477-6741**

**Email: [mrc-cpcml@mts.net](mailto:mrc-cpcml@mts.net)**

**Internet: [www.modern-communism.ca](http://www.modern-communism.ca)**

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