

IPB ACTIVITY REPORT 2008

SUMMARY VERSION

DISARMAMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT (DFD)

IPB has worked hard to consolidate its main programme – *Disarmament for Development*. Global military budgets continue to rise at an alarming rate and the needs in fields like climate change and sustainable development are growing even faster, so it is vital that civil society finds new and more effective ways to raise its voice. We have extended the range of our message to many new countries/constituencies.

OUTREACH WORK – people, places, networks

COPENHAGEN SEMINAR: The year's big event was the **seminar which took place in Copenhagen Nov 15-17** – linking some IPB history (centenary of the Nobel Prize awarded to our first President Fredrik Bajer) to contemporary challenges such as militarism, development, human rights and terrorism. It was also the occasion for the annual **Council meeting** and the **award of the MacBride Prize**.

OTHER CONFERENCES AND GATHERINGS

IPB representatives have spoken on the DFD theme on numerous occasions, including:

- **Dar-es-Salaam** – Final session of the Helsinki Process meetings (Dec 2007) (T. Magnusson)
- **Paris** – Frères des Hommes assembly (C. Archer)
- **Tokyo** – several IPB members participated in the huge conference held in Tokyo to promote the **Global Article 9 Campaign**. This then gave rise to a programme of joint outreach work, together with our member organisation Peace Boat. (C.Weiss. F. Durand...)
- **Barcelona:** Sept Fundacio per la Pau 25th anniversary conference (C.Archer)
- **Oslo** : June 6-8 Eur. Network Against Arms Trade (C.Archer)
- **Beijing:** Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF) (T. Magnusson)
- **Yaoundé, Cameroon:** Youth Peace Week (message) – 10 Oct.
- **Geneva:** the SG as spoken twice to groups of students from the School for International Training and supported them with their study projects. He also made a presentation to a group of international relations students from Exeter University.
- **Geneva:** Women's annual seminar on Disarmament (WILPF). IPB staff participated in this year's seminar, which focused in part on military spending – and was addressed by Cora Weiss.

Additional visits included: **Dijon** (60th anniversary of the Mouvement de la Paix), **London, Paris** (advertising agencies), **Brussels** (NATO mtg), **Gernika** (Peace Museum), **Oslo** (Cluster Munitions Convention signing)

SUPPORT FOR MAJOR NETWORKS

All during the year IPB has given support and publicity to various international networks working **on specific weapon systems**, notably: International Action Network on Small Arms, International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Cluster Munitions Campaign, International Campaign to Ban Uranium Weapons, and the European Network Against Arms Trade.

GENEVA DECLARATION

one of the important developments this year at the diplomatic level was the inter-governmental process known as the **Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development**. (Endorsed by more than 90 states). A review summit was hosted by the Government of Switzerland and UNDP on 12 September. Some 86 states and more than 35 NGOs attended the event, including IPB.

NATO ANNIVERSARY

Among the most important engines of growth in military spending is the NATO alliance. Not only does it

encourage its members to increase their support for the military sector, but by its actions it stimulates spending among opponents. IPB therefore became engaged in preparations for action in protest at the celebrations of the NATO 60th anniversary, to be held in April 2009. Planning meetings and conferences where IPB was represented included: Afghanistan conference in Hannover (June), European Social Forum in Malmö (Sept), Stuttgart follow up meeting (Oct.) and Dec 1st meeting (Brussels).

OUTREACH WORK – tools

WEBSITE: We now have a lot of new material at the **website** www.ipb.org, which focuses particularly on the **Disarmament for Development** programme. A new, more dynamic website is now being actively planned.

IPB NEWS: our twice-monthly electronic **newsletter** *IPB NEWS*, which features all types of news, reports, publications, actions and events on themes related to IPB's work, was maintained all through the year.

BOOKS: Over the last 3 years IPB Secretariat has devoted large amounts of time to writing, publishing, translating and distributing two main volumes outlining the DFD campaign : *Warfare or Welfare?* and *Whose Priorities? Warfare or Welfare?* was translated into French and German, and *Whose Priorities?* in German.

CALL FOR ACTION: in 2008 IPB launched a major worldwide *Call for Action* on military and social spending, entitled *Time for New Priorities!* So far we have 85 endorsing organisations, and we will use this to build a more comprehensive worldwide network of groups working on the spending issue.

MEDIA CAMPAIGN: Much effort has been devoted this year to developing plans for major media campaign, involving a partnership with a major advertising agency. This is now likely to take place in late 2010-2011.

FOLLOW UP OF THE CONFERENCE *BOOKS OR BOMBS?* - held in Egypt in Nov. 2007 – the **conference report** was published this year in **English and Arabic editions**.

BROCHURES: a number of brochures have been developed during the year, including French and English editions of the *introductory IPB flyer*, and an *outreach leaflet* devised jointly by IPB and Peace Boat on behalf of the Article 9 campaign. Also available: *IPB Membership*, and *IPB Publications Catalogue*.

RELEASE OF SIPRI MILITARY SPENDING FIGURES. IPB again issued a communiqué on the increasing level of spending highlighted in the annual yearbook of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (June).

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

IPB's work to promote the elimination of nuclear weapons has deep roots in our post WW2 history. We continue to find ways to stimulate, support and report on activities in this field in many parts of the world:

Non-Proliferation Treaty : The NPT is coming up for review in spring 2010. This year's PrepComm was held in Geneva from **April 28-May 9, 2008**. We organised a meeting on the fringe of the conference: ***Nuclear weapons at what price? An economic, moral and political assessment***. This served as the launch of a preliminary version of a new IPB book *Nuclear Weapons: At What Cost?* written by Ben Cramer.

Other events in which the Secretariat and others were involved were:

The **World Court Project** (of which IPB is a founder member) held a day-conference on May 1st in Geneva. The purpose was to explore the possibilities of a return to the International Court of Justice on the question of the legal status of nuclear weapons – in particular the issue of whether states are negotiating 'in good faith'. Among the distinguished speakers was Judge Bedjaoui (Algeria), former President of the ICJ.

An important **exhibition** organized by Real Exhibition Development, ***In-Security: the Nuclear Dilemma***, opened at the Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva, in late Feb., and ran on through the NPT PrepComm period until the end of July. It has attracted thousands of visitors, and has been especially appreciated by school groups. It is now touring Europe, beginning at the Gernika Peace Museum in Spain. IPB has supported this project from the early days, and the SG spoke at the Press Conference on the opening day.

BANg: Ban All Nukes Generation is a European group of young people (based in Germany) working on nuclear disarmament issues. A group of some 80-90 students and others came to Geneva for the NPT PrepComm and organised a whole series of activities there, including a vigil, lobbying work and a Model Nuclear Weapons Convention negotiation, held at the International School. IPB assisted with logistics and other forms of support.

Global Summit for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World: laying the practical, technical and political groundwork. On Feb. 16-17, 2008, many IPB members participated in the conference held at City Hall in London, to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Geneva seminar and roundtable on the Nuclear Weapons Convention: IPB secretariat assisted Alyn Ware (IPB Vice-President) in organising an important seminar for governments and experts, to explore steps to be taken to move more rapidly towards a Nuclear Weapons Convention. This meeting was held in Geneva 13 Sept.

Footprints for Peace - Anti nuclear walkers: In late July IPB staff took part in welcoming a group of anti-nuclear walkers who had set off from London and had held meetings and actions all along the way. IPB teamed up with local activists to organise a welcome programme including street theatre, social evening, media coverage and a visit to the US and other disarmament delegations, and to the Head of Disarmament Affairs at the UN.

World Conference against A & H bombs, Japan - Aug 6-9: IPB was represented this year at the annual Hiroshima-Nagasaki commemorations by our former President Bruce Kent. The highlight of this large event drawing together many thousands of activists was the launch of a major signature drive promoting the abolition of nuclear weapons, to be submitted at the 2010 NPT conference.

Youth summer school on nuclear disarmament: Two IPB speakers made presentations at the summer school on nuclear disarmament organised by the World Federation of UN Associations held at the UN in August. This programme was designed as a prize for the winners of an international youth essay/poster design contest.

Sean MacBride Peace Prize: This year's prize was awarded to **Jackie Cabasso**, Director of the Western States Legal Foundation, California, for her work in exposing new developments within the US nuclear weapons complex, and her role in promoting the global abolition movement.

Nobel Peace Prize nomination: This year IPB nominated **Mayors for Peace** for the Nobel Prize.

Middle Powers Initiative (MPI), Global Security Institute (GSI), Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND): IPB has close links with these three closely-connected groupings, and gives political, logistical and informational support to all three.

NGO Committee for Disarmament: This Committee of CONGO (conf. of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC) brings together NGOs working around the UN on disarmament. The Committee nowadays focuses mainly on nuclear issues. IPB acts as the Geneva Committee's secretariat. The Committee met several times during the year to focus on NPT, Conference on Disarmament and other issues.

PEACE HISTORY

Among IPB's more general roles is the promotion of **Peace History**, including some support for the network of Peace Museums, as well as for individual historians, archivists, educators and researchers.

Oslo - Nobel Centenary: The **centenary of IPB's own Nobel Peace Prize** will take place in Oslo in 2010 and our Norwegian colleagues are busy developing an exciting programme. Preparations were advanced this year thanks partly to three visits to Norway by the SG:

1) S. Asia conference, April; 2) Oslo – European Network Against Arms trade meeting, June, 3) Stavanger – Point of Peace summit, 10-12 Sept.

It was possible to combine these visits with a tour of the new Nobel Centre; meetings with member organisations, DFD partners and officers; and opportunities to meet with the Foreign Affairs ministry, Nobel laureates and officials of the Nobel Committee.

London - 2nd Peace History conference, March 28-29 : co-organised by the Movement for the Abolition of War, in collaboration with IPB. Many IPB members attended this successful event, which was once again held in the Imperial War Museum. One encouraging outcome was the **co-publication in booklet form** of the life story of the great Muslim exponent of nonviolence, **Abdul Gaffar Khan**.

Archives: The SG is grateful for the assistance provided on a voluntary basis over the last few months by a trained archivist from the Univ. of Br. Columbia, Adam Cowling, who has embarked on the task of establishing a simple catalogue/finding aid for the archives held at the Rue de Zurich (1945-) – to be made available online.

GENERAL

NOBEL SUMMITS

Stavanger: IPB has participated in all the Nobel Peace Laureates summits since they were established in 2000 by Mikhail Gorbachev and the City of Rome. The event in Norway this year was an additional event to the normal programme. While only a handful of laureates attended, the programme was enriched by a large collection of experts from many fields, and all manner of cultural activities. A special highlight was the launch of the new web-based TV project **Peace Channel.tv**, led by Bob Geldof. The summit was organised by **Point of Peace** as part of Stavanger's programme as 2008 European Cultural Capital. IPB representatives spoke, chaired meetings, and contributed in other ways.

Paris: Arielle Denis (Vice-President) and Tomas Magnusson (President) made presentations at the **Nobel Peace Laureates summit** – December 2008.

OTHER NETWORKS

In addition to its participation in international campaigns on a variety of issues, IPB is a member of, and active participant in the following more general umbrella organisations:

- **Ubuntu** – World Forum of Civil Society Networks
- **Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC (CONGO)**
- **Federation of International Institutions in Geneva (FIIG)**

MEDIA COVERAGE:

Among the highlights this year were two TV appearances: **CNN-Japan** - interview with SG; and **TSR/TV5 Géopolitis** – SG was special guest for a 30 min edition on Burma.

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