



International Peace Bureau

WWW: Working together for a World Without War

IPB News

13 July 2007 edition

Disarmament for Development Programme

In 2005 IPB launched a major new programme, designed to reflect widespread public concern at the rapid rise in global military spending (now totalling \$1204 billion); and the evidence that weapons -- such as small arms, cluster bombs, landmines -- seriously impede sustainable development. Post 9-11, the failure of military solutions should be obvious to all. IPB advocates reductions in defence budgets and the adoption of a 'human security' approach. Activities organised in pursuit of these goals include: seminars, publications, website, e-newsletter, exhibitions and a short film. National and international networks are gradually being developed.

IPB ANNUAL SEMINAR, ALEXANDRIA (NOV. 07) - BROCHURE + REGISTRATION FORM AVAILABLE

The IPB Secretariat is pleased to announce the opening of registrations for the seminar *Books or Bombs?* to be held at the Alexandria Library (Egypt) on Nov.11 and 12. This will be followed by the 2007 IPB Council meeting on Nov. 13. The provisional programme with initial speakers list, information about co-sponsors, and other details can be found in the newly published brochure - click [HERE](#) for pdf version. The registration form can be downloaded [HERE](#). Paper copies are available on request. Please forward this information to your contacts and colleagues.

New UN Under-Secretary for Disarmament

The United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon announced the appointment of Mr. Sergio de Queiroz Duarte of Brazil as the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs at the Under-Secretary-General level. The Department of Disarmament Affairs was established in January 1998 as part of the Secretary-General's programme for reform. The Office promotes the goal of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the strengthening of the disarmament regimes in respect to other weapons of mass destruction, chemical and biological weapons. It also promotes disarmament efforts in the area of conventional weapons, especially land mines and small arms, which are the weapons of choice in contemporary conflicts. More... <http://disarmament2.un.org/dda.htm>

'Aid Is More Efficient than Tanks' - UNDP Administrator in Le Monde

Kemal Dervis, Head of the UN Development Programme, raises the issue of military spending in relation to development aid:

'The world is spending approximately 90 billion euros annually on development aid and 900 billion on armament. It makes no sense, even from a security perspective. Today, you can stock up fighter aircraft and missiles,

but you are not dealing with the real challenges of humanity, which include terrorism, worldwide pandemics and global warming. Aid is under all circumstances infinitely more efficient than tanks, but it requires that we abandon budgetary conservatism, which repeats year after year the same allocations in favour of the regular armed forces which are ill-adapted to today's world. I know what I am talking about: I used to be the Minister of Finance of my country, Turkey....*Don't you have the feeling that you are preaching in the desert?* We have to start talking about it! (interview continues) More... <http://www.lemonde.fr/web/article/0,1-0,36-933314,0.html> (in French)

Military Spending in the U.S. - Pullback from Iraq or Increased Military Spending?

June 7, U.S. ambassador to Bagdad, Mr. Crocker stated that "You can't build a whole policy on a fear of a negative, but, boy, you've really got to account for it". Hoshiyar Zebari, the foreign minister of Iraq, pronounced a similar warning: "The dangers vary from civil war to dividing the country or maybe to regional wars," he said, referring to an American withdrawal. "In our estimation the danger is huge. Until the Iraqi forces and institutions complete their readiness, there is a responsibility on the U.S. and other countries to stand by the Iraqi government and the Iraqi people to help build up their capabilities." This could lead to continued military spending in the U.S. rather than the redistribution of resources. More... <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/10/world/middleeast/10iraq.html>
<http://www.lemonde.fr/web/article/0,1-0,36-933793,0.html> (in French)

UK Treasury to Shut Arms Sale Department

'It is time to end the cosy and corrupting relationship between public servants and private arms manufacturers.' The UK treasury is planning to close down the Defence export services organisation (Deso), a long time aim of anti-corruption campaigners and opponents of the arms trade. Opponents say no other British industry is supported by such a large government-funded machine and that Deso, which is always headed by an arms company executive, relentlessly promotes the industry's interests within the government.

More...

http://www.guardian.co.uk/armstrade/story/0,,2121881,00.html#article_continue

IPB and Peace Boat Session at ECOSOC, Geneva

On July 4, IPB Secretariat joined with colleagues from our member organisation Peace Boat to make a presentation of our common project at a side meeting during the annual meeting of the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the Palais des Nations. The title was *Warfare or Welfare? Armed Conflict and Development*. The speakers were Yoshioka Tatsuya and Jasna Bastic, from Peace Boat, and Colin Archer from IPB. Numerous experts at the conference described the urgent needs for greater investment in development programmes, but extremely few drew attention to the huge sums currently devoted to the military. The ECOSOC meeting

continues until July 27. More...
<http://www.ipb.org/pdf/EcosocMeetingLeaflet.pdf>

Why Military Does Not Always Win

"A war with no visible payoff against an opponent who poses no direct threat will come under increasing criticism as battle casualties rise and economic costs escalate . . . ". This was pronounced after the Vietnam War but is constantly on the agenda in the battle against terrorism. Public sentiment in Canada about the war is primarily negative, polls show. According to Patricia Sullivan 'despite overwhelming military superiority, mounting human and material costs compel them to pull out their troops without achieving their political aims.' More...
<http://www.thestar.com/article/233617>

Weapons of Mass Destruction

Pugwash Conference Calls for Revitalizing Nuclear Disarmament

From 5-7 July 2007, a distinguished group of 25 international scientists and specialists on nuclear weapons issues met in the fishing village of Pugwash, Nova Scotia - on the 50th anniversary of the first Pugwash Conference - to discuss the urgency of revitalizing nuclear disarmament in order to free the world from the ever-present threat posed by nuclear weapons. Workshop recommendations shortly available on <http://www.pugwash.org/>

Others

Civil Society Forum on the Millennium Development Goals Held in Geneva

The first Civil Society Development Forum, arranged by CONGO, took place in Geneva at the end of June. A central objective of the Forum consisted in providing a venue for an in-depth discussion of the themes of the Substantive Session of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), topics in focus were the eradication of poverty and hunger, pro-poor growth, reaching the MDG's by 2015 and civil society in the UN reform. For the full report, see <http://www.ngocongo.org/index.php?what=news&id=10377>

First Ever US-Social Forum

Over 10,000 grassroots activists have gathered in Atlanta the week of July 2 for the first United States Social Forum. The theme of the five-day event has been: "Another World Is Possible. Another U.S. Is Necessary." The gathering has been inspired by previous World Social Forums in Brazil, India and Kenya. More...

<http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=07/06/29/1420200>

Resources

Iran as a Pioneer Case for Multilateral Nuclear Arrangements

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) is publishing a special issue report by two independent authors. The report deals with the reconciliation of Iran's programme for uranium enrichment. The international concerns about nuclear non-proliferation is one of the most serious and urgent

unsolved problems in world affairs today. The authors' offer the model of establishing a modern multilateral enrichment facility on Iranian soil as a peaceful way to meet that challenge. See <http://www.sipri.org/contents/expcon/iranmnanews.html>

IPB receives many e-newsletters, both from our members and non-member organisations. Click [here](#) for a list with hyperlinks.

Calendar

Click [here](#) for IPB's international events calendar.

Message to IPB members: if you have reports of activities that are relevant to this newsletter please email them to the Secretariat.

To subscribe to or unsubscribe from this newsletter please email:

mailbox@ipb.org

Newsletter edited by Emma Henriksson - emma@ipb.org

International Peace Bureau, 41 Rue de Zurich, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland

Tel: + 41 22 731 6429 / Fax + 41 22 738 9419

www.ipb.org