

Ground Zero

July 2006

Volume 11 Issue 3

How Did We Get Here?

Continuing in the History of Resistance at Bangor

By Karen B. Jones, Jan Prichard-Cohen, Mary Hanson, Rev. Gilberto Perez and Shirley Morrison

On Monday, May 15, thirteen people were arrested at the main gates of Bangor Submarine Base, continuing the long tradition of resistance to the crime of Trident. In this issue, Ground Zero activists share their stories, from those who were committing their first act of civil disobedience, to others who have been a part of the community since the 1970s (see

"Interview with Mary Gleysteen," page 4). Sometimes the resistance is cyclical, as in the case of the resurgence of the Pacific Life Community (see article on page 5).

On May 15, Kitsap County Sheriff's officers arrested Jody Tiller of Olympia; Carol Ann Barrows of Bainbridge Island; Brian Watson of Bremerton; and Karen Jones, Rev. Anne Hall and Shirley Morrison of Seattle. Federal officers arrested Lynne

Greenwald of Bremerton; Jan Prichard-Cohen of Tacoma; Bryce Brown of Olympia; Rev. Gilberto Perez of Bainbridge Island; Bryan Edmark of Lynnwood; and Rose Betz-Zall and Mary Hanson of Seattle. Some of those arrested shared their experiences and impressions.

Karen B. Jones: It's 6:00 a.m. The sky is glorious: purple and pink-tinged clouds. The sound of chanting and two beating drums is steady. Sixty people are along the road at the entrance to Bangor. A peace vigil is taking place outside the largest active nuclear weapons depot on the west coast. Cars, a

few trucks, and some motorcycles pass on their way to work. A banner hangs across the overpass "CREATE A PEACEFUL WORLD FOR ALL CHILDREN. Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Scrap Trident."

How did I get here? How did we get here?



"We must resist." (L to R) Brian Watson, Rev. Anne Hall, Carol Ann Barrows, and Jody Tiller cross into Luoto Road with signs displaying the social cost of each Trident missile. *Photo by Tom Rogers.*

Jan Prichard-Cohen: As a Tacoma Catholic Worker, I wanted to participate in the Bangor action. Demonstrating for a peaceful world would be an apt way, I thought, to celebrate Mother's Day. I was not prepared for what happened: the quiet diffusion of our nonviolent dissent, the attempt to silence by courtesy and the quick removal of the participants.

My father was Navy Capt. James A. Prichard, commanding officer of Keyport, Bangor and Indian Island in the 1950s, and I lived at Keyport during that time. I was, in a way, coming home to an environment I grew up in, a familiar world for me.

Mary Hanson: A

bumper sticker I like says "I love my country, but I think we should start seeing other people." It is not sane, normal, or decent to tolerate thousands of Trident-based warheads routinely poised to destroy the earth and all humanity.

Back in the twentieth century, when the U.S. had an Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, my country signed and promised to obey the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and other international laws and treaties, copies of which we stapled to the back of the Mothers' Day banner. Article VI of the

Sharing Our Reasons For Taking Action

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NPT commits the U.S. to nuclear disarmament. The Nuremberg Principles require citizens to stop their countries from committing crimes and breaking laws.

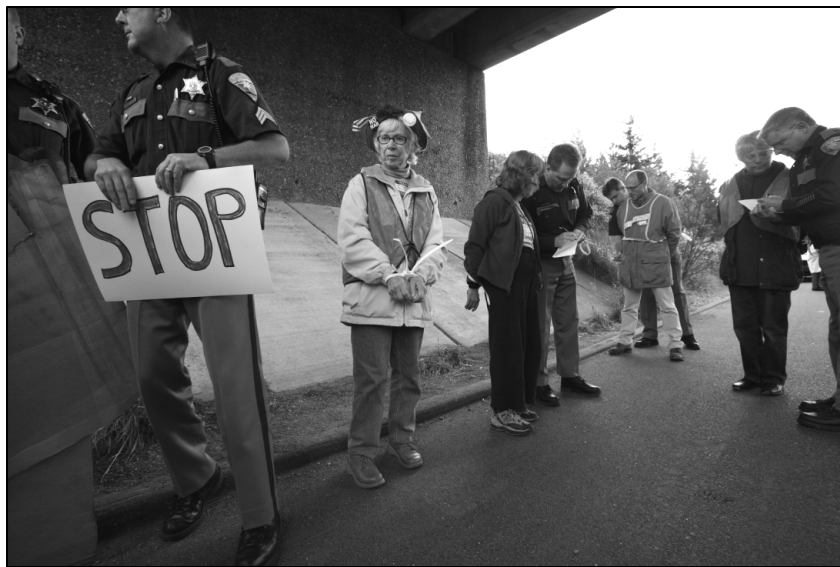
Karen: Twenty minutes pass, maybe thirty. There is an opening in traffic and our team of six crosses the fog line, under the yellow police tape, and into the three lanes of traffic. Three peacekeepers in orange vests, holding signs to stop; three holding signs that tell the amount of schools, housing, child care, nutrition that could be provided with the dollars being spent to maintain this arsenal of genocide. One pair blocks each lane of traffic.

The police approach. They take the signs and lead us away, to waiting police cars. Later seven people holding candles walk, one at a time, across a blue painted line onto Federal property and they, too, are arrested. Is this foolishness, putting oneself at risk?

Jan: It was strange walking across that blue line that separates us civilians from the military establishments threatening our lives, our planet, our freedoms. Strange listening to an officer give a warning to leave now or face arrest and the consequences thereof. He

held my arm gently, but on a pressure point that would disable me if I had moved toward any kind of action. I felt like I was being escorted to a church pew at a wedding.

When we got to the police van, stationed behind the entrance gate, something changed. We became a documentary, a documentary we have all witnessed in crime films: hands over your head, palms pressed against the side of the car, legs spread



Kitsap County Sheriff's officers arrested activists as soon as they crossed the fog line at the side of the road. From left to right, Shirley Morrison, Karen Jones, Brian Watson, and Rev. Anne Hall under arrest. *Photo by Justin Vela, www.justinvela.com.*



No missing the message: activists held a banner over Luoto Road before, during, and after the action. *Photo by Tom Rogers.*

apart. A female Marine felt my arms, legs, crotch, buttocks, breasts, neck. And then the cuffs, double-locked for my safety, they said.

Mary: I am alarmed by the criminally foolish actions of my government: the U.S. attack on Iraq; its willful ignorance of global warming; its casual underfunding of efforts to secure Russian nuclear materials; its plans to resume nuclear testing and new nuclear weapons designs; its erosion of the firewall between nuclear and conventional weapons; and its cavalier shredding of hard-won treaties.

I walked onto the Trident base with a candle – symbolizing wisdom and hope – and a banner reading, “The Earth is our Mother. Treat her with Respect.” Stapled to the banner were some of the laws and treaties I expect my country to obey. Somehow it seemed to be the right thing to do.

Rev. Gilberto Perez There is a time and place for all things, and my time has come to cross the line to bear witness to our behavior towards others of the human race. It was a very natural act. While in custody, I was thinking of Henry David Thoreau in jail for resisting the illegal Mexican War. Today there are Mexican Americans serving in an illegal Iraq war for the United States. Things haven't changed much... only modified to fit the current mode of power over others.

Karen: This is my first act of civil disobedience. I'm scared that this might cost me a long-planned trip with my sisters. But, then I see images of both Iraqis and American soldiers injured and killed by our weapons, laced with depleted ura-

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nium. I think of those Iranian people under threat from my country of nuclear attack. What is the cost of civil disobedience compared to what our brothers and sisters are suffering daily?

We are booked, taken to holding cells, fingerprinted and photographed. A first for me, a school teacher for over 30 years. One of my co-workers said I was endangering my reputation. I think not. This is a time citizens must act, because our democracy is being swept away, as in a river after rapid snow-melt. I feel like I've woken up to find that the nightmare called the death of democracy is unfolding before my eyes. If not now, when will I speak up, act out?

Jan: It was the Ban and Bar letter, signed by the Executive Officer by Direction of the Commanding Officer, that drove home this very personal, very symbolic act of civil disobedience, an act toward misguided, immoral, unjust and, yes, evil policies of a government gone mad with power.

I read the line, "You are prohibited from entering Naval Base Kitsap on a permanent basis, an area that includes Bremerton, Bangor and Keyport installations." A place I called home was no longer open to me. I was married at Keyport. My dad's memorial service was at the Keyport Chapel.

This was the place I had lived the longest, a place where my dad had been commanding officer. While it is no

longer open to me, the deep peace I feel within me affirms the decision I made to carry out an act of civil disobedience at this source of fear, this source of unchecked power. This deep peace shows me how important it is for each one of us to live our beliefs.

Shirley Morrison: I crossed the Line, not just for my five children, fourteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, but for all the world's children. May they learn to live lightly on planet Earth. But mostly may they LIVE – with intention and love. They will need to continue our work, or some work, to save the planet. Their imagination, their creativity, and energy are needed NOW.

Karen: Sitting in the cell, I think of those who suffer from the insane actions of our government. Each person's scream in the night is our scream. Those Iraqi parents of bleeding children are not separate from us. Our grown children bleed too. It would be much more comfortable to be at a backyard barbeque this Mother's Day with my daughter. But for today, we're here in this cement cell, the six of us, waiting, sharing stories, knowing we made a stand for peace.

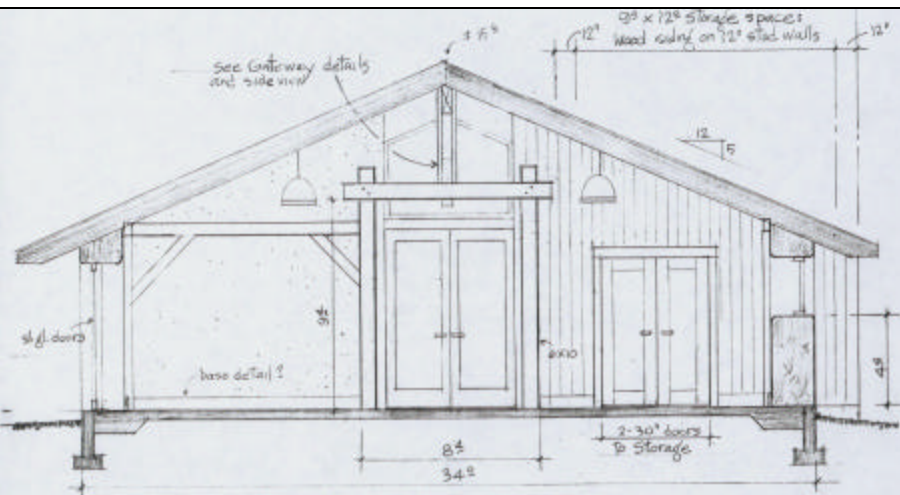
Really, it's not a choice. We must resist. Not all will choose civil disobedience, but we all must take some action, whatever baby step, to change our own government when it chooses to build weapons of mass destruction over peace and justice for its citizens and the rest of humankind.

New House Coming — Possible September Start

By Dave Hall

Ted Bower continues to refine the plans for a beautiful house for Ground Zero. It features a 900 square foot meeting room to the west and a 1000 square-foot apartment to the east. We have received generous pro bono help from engineer Andy

Herrick of Seattle, contractor Tom Froning of Lopez Island, and environmental consultant Jon Heller of the Seattle consulting firm Ecotope. We are negotiating with another engineer to produce detailed plans for the permit process.



An interior view from the new home looking west from the great room, toward the west wall. The new house will be 2175 square feet.

Timing for construction depends on when we get permits from Kitsap County. Right now, it seems unlikely we will break ground before September. The region is in the middle of a building boom, so permit offices are swamped. The boom also means, unfortunately, that the cost of construction materials is escalating.

How can you help? Talk up the house with your friends. Let us know in what ways you might help out.

We obviously need construction help, but also assistance with organizing and taking care of the work crew, running errands, making phone calls, and raising needed funds.

Dave Hall is the chair of the Ground Zero Building Committee. He can be reached at dchall@wolfenet.com.

Interview with Mary Gleysteen

Interview by Alice Zillah

Where did you grow up?

My dad was in the Navy. My dad was a doctor, and through him I saw the good side of the military. I was born in Ponape, part of the Eastern Caroline Islands, which is now part of the Federated States of Micronesia. He ran a clinic there and provided medical services to the Islanders. Later he was stationed at Quantico, Virginia, San Diego and various other military hospitals. We came to Bremerton in 1959.

I think I became a pacifist at the end of second or third grade. There was a school picnic at our Marine Corps school in Quantico, and they took us to a field where we sat in bleachers and watched war games where Marines pretended to blow each other up. I remember being pretty shaken. Coincidentally, Quantico was where I did my first civil resistance, drinking out of the "colored" drinking fountains in the train station waiting room.

When was the first time you got arrested?

The first time was during the Vietnam War for stopping a Burlington Northern train on the tracks on the way to Bangor. They were bringing in munitions to be shipped to Vietnam.

It was after months of trying to stop ammunition ships by blockading them in small boats as they passed through the Hood Canal Bridge in the spring and summer of 1972. It felt good and was important to me to actually stop the train — to put myself between the bombs and the



Stopping the White Train: (L to R) Jim Burns, Anne Hall, Kim Wahl, Mary Gleysteen, Marya Barr, and Karol Schulkin; with Sr. Jackie Gemme, Glen Milner, and Richard Arnold visible at the back, in a mid-1980s action.

people in Southeast Asia, even if the train only stopped for a little while and the action seemed symbolic.

How did you first get involved with Ground Zero?

It was actually before Ground Zero was founded. Jim Douglass came to a potluck around 1974 or 1975 and told us about the organizing that the Pacific Life Community was doing around the proposed Trident Base, and invited us to get involved,

attend hearings, and participate in Bangor Summer. Later I got a letter from some folks saying that they had found a house near the base and needed money to buy it, so I contributed.

Your first career was in law. What led you to become a lawyer, and then to decide to leave the profession?

When our case for blocking the trains was dismissed on a technicality, I was mad because I wanted to say why we were on the tracks. It seemed like the lawyers had been pretty high-handed and taken control of our case. I wanted to be a people's lawyer. But when I got to law school, I found out that I didn't like to argue much. I did practice for about seven years doing senior citizen law, focusing on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, mostly at administrative hearings.

Reagan's cutbacks in social services included the privatization of legal aid, so our office went into private practice and contracted to do legal aid in Kitsap County. But I hated private practice. I also wanted to be free to follow my conscience in terms of doing civil disobedience with Ground Zero. So I quit and eventually started working for a bookstore in Edmonds, and then moved to the one on Bainbridge Is-

land where I still work. I told them I needed to have a job that would allow me to get arrested. They hired me anyway, which was really pretty remarkable. Later they offered to arrange my schedule so I could get to the tracks in time for the trains' arrivals, and have people cover for me if I needed to go to jail.

Did you ever have to go to jail?

I was jailed briefly during the Peoples Blockade and again in the late 1980s, after I was convicted of trespassing at Bangor, for walking onto the base at Trigger Avenue with Anne Hall, Kim Wahl, Jim Burns and a bunch of other people. There was a trial, and Ken Kagan represented us in Seattle before a magistrate. Ramsey Clark testified on our behalf, but we were convicted and I spent a weekend in jail. It was overcrowded, but it was really not too bad. We had MTV and opportunities to play basketball and take a shower. The disconcerting thing was the lights were on all the time and without a watch I was getting up and making my bed at 3:00 in the morning.

What was it like to be part of the Ground Zero community

Mary Gleysteen...continued on page 5

"Through Ground Zero I am able to be a small part of the tradition and the power of the nonviolent movement that has gone before and that goes on around the world now."

Pacific Life Community Reborn

By Rev. Anne Hall and Alice Zillah

On April 26, about twenty-five people gathered in Tacoma for a day-long retreat to plan the rebirth of the Pacific Life Community. Those attending represented Ground Zero, the Nevada Desert Experience, and Catholic Worker houses in Washington, Oregon, and California.

The Pacific Life Community was originally founded in 1975 by Jim and Shelley Douglass. In their book, **Dear Gandhi, What Now?** they described its origins: "The nonviolent campaign against Trident began with the resignation of Lockheed missile designer Robert Aldridge, who worked on the re-entry vehicle for Trident missiles. Bob's work led him to the knowledge that the United States was building systems capable of a disarming first strike, and his conscience called him to resign. His resignation and the analysis he shared with us inspired the January 1975 formation of Pacific Life Community, a small intentional community committed to resisting the coming of Trident to the Pacific Northwest. Believing that our culture's reliance upon violence is a central root of the arms race and other forms of injustice, Pacific Life Community committed itself to 'seek the truth of a nonviolent way of life,' both personally and politically."

Like its predecessor, the new Pacific Life Community is a spiritual, nonviolent movement which strives for a peaceful world, in harmony with peace movements around the earth. PLC will sponsor regional and joint direct actions focused on the elimination of nuclear weapons and war. Membership is open to anyone who is a member of the Catholic Worker community, Ground Zero, and the other member groups, or is in relationship to those communities and agrees with PLC mission and vision.

Planning is already underway for the first annual PLC gathering on March 2-4, 2007. There will be a retreat and possibly direct action at the Nevada Test site. This weekend commemorates the earlier PLC's Nuclear Free Pacific Day, and is also two weeks before the fourth anniversary of the beginning of the Iraq War. The volunteers at NDE will help us with lodging, food, and meeting facilities.

To learn more about the PLC and the annual gathering, visit www.pacificlifecommunity.wordpress.com

Rev. Anne Hall and Alice Zillah are the regional representatives for western Washington to the Pacific Life Community.

Mary Gleysteen...continued from page 4

during the 1980s?

I was not really closely involved with the community, but kind of came and went over the years. The Live Without Trident marches, demonstrations, and mass arrests were awe inspiring. The organizing for the coming of and the encounter with the USS Ohio was huge. The tracks campaign was very intense. Leafleting, vigiling and meetings (weekly and more often) were constant.

What was the significance of the USS Ohio?

The USS Ohio was the first commissioned Trident coming into Bangor. There were calls for people to come and protest. One big sailboat came all the way from Australia. There were little handmade boats called ducklings. There was a lot of training and "sea trials", and incredible amounts of organizing and communication.

What Ground Zero accomplishments or activities are you most proud of?

I am proud that Ground Zero continues to carry on in the spirit of nonviolence and the tradition of love and hope. Over the years there has been an ebb and flow, and there have been times of real strife and struggle. I think right now is a pretty wonderful time. The Stewardship Council is different from GZ communities of the past, but operates with remarkable grace.

What inspires you to stay involved with Ground Zero?

My knowledge of and responsibility for what goes on inside the Bangor gates. As a pacifist living in Kitsap County, I really have very little choice. Plus, I love and am inspired by the Ground Zero community — the folks who are here now and the ones who were here before.

Ground Zero helps me really try to internalize non-violence with respect to actions at the gate, and relationships with workers on the base, as well as in my everyday life. It's so central to Ground Zero, and I like to think it's central to my whole life, but often it isn't. I fall short. Through Ground Zero I am able to be a small part of the tradition and the power of the nonviolent movement that has gone before and that goes on around the world now.

What challenges do you see in the future for Ground Zero?

I hope that we can find new and creative nonviolent ways to challenge the Trident system, and that we can remain true to our mission of getting rid of nuclear weapons worldwide and the Trident subs at Bangor in particular, without letting things like the fire and the need to rebuild the



Mary demonstrates the importance of smiling for a mug shot. *Courtesy of Kitsap County Sheriff's office.*

Ground Zero house interfere with or detract from the real work of the place. I think we need to find a way to work on some serious grassroots organizing. I think we all have a tendency to get a little complacent, and I know that I need to stretch myself to take that one step beyond the comfort zone toward a safer world.

Keeping Their Convictions *Restrictions on Nuns Still Apply*

By Sr. Jackie Hudson, OP

As of June 14, there has been no response from Judge Robert Blackburn regarding our formal request to accept the alternative restitution offer of \$600,000, in lieu of the \$3,080 demanded by the prosecutor. The prosecutor has rejected this offer and insists that a financial payment be made to the “victim”, the US Air Force.

In April, Carol, Ardeh and I requested a meeting with Judge Blackburn and traveled to Denver, where we also met with our mutual Colorado Probation Officer, Gary Phillips. The judge did not respond to our request, and the trip was logged as a probation travel violation. I filed a formal request to Judge Blackburn in May to be removed from supervised release (which is standard procedure for anyone after serving at least one year on probation). He referred it to the prosecutor and ordered a response by May 19. To date, I have not received any word on this matter.

Meanwhile, in more positive news, Colorado filmmaker Brenda Truelson Fox graced us with her presence at the Northwest Premier of her film, “Conviction”, at the Olympia Capitol Theater on June 4. She has followed our case since the beginning and produced a very informative film that has been well received by audiences. To view a clip or order your own copy, visit the web site of Zero to Sixty Productions, at www.ztsp.org, or order using the form on page 7.

Sr. Jackie Hudson, OP is a member of the Ground Zero Stewardship Council and on the planning committee for the 2006 Hiroshima Day action.

Hung Jury for Olympia Four

By Alice Zillah

The trial of Bryce Brown, Shannon Bushnell, Patty Imani, and Alice Zillah came to a close on April 13. The four Olympians were charged with “failure to disperse” after taking part in the August 8, 2005 Ground Zero action in which 15 other people were also arrested. After two days of moving testimony, the jury deliberated for over six hours without reaching consensus. Judge Daniel Phillips declared a mistrial, and on April 24 Prosecutor Jeff Jahns announced that his office would not retry the defendants.

During the trial Bryce, Shannon, Patty and Alice each testified to the reasons they took the actions they did, their participation in the Hanford to Bangor Peace Walk, and their personal backgrounds. Michael Hill, Mary Gleysteen, Brian Watson, and Joy Goldstein provided testimony about the planning and preparation that goes into each Ground Zero action, the communication with law enforcement, and their own deeply held beliefs about how imperative it is to challenge Trident. Seattle attorney Ken Kagan continued his laudable tradition of providing attentive, highly skilled counsel to Ground Zero defendants at his own expense.

Following the trial, several of the jurors stayed to speak with the defendants and attorneys. They said they were very impressed by the commitment of Ground Zero members and the careful plans that go into each action. The jury foreman, who had worked at Bangor for six years, told the defendants, “Keep up the good work. Keep on doing what you're doing.”

The trial was notable for the amount of friendly faces in the courtroom as many supporters and fellow arrestees traveled to Port Orchard to witness and provide encouragement.

Alice Zillah is the new editor of the Ground Zero newsletter.

Peace Fleet Sails Forth August 2

By Glen Milner

The annual Ground Zero Meet the Fleet demonstration will be on August 2, in downtown Seattle. Peace Fleet skippers are advised to be on the water in Elliott Bay around noon. The Navy fleet arrives around 1:00pm.

This year, activists are also encouraged to meet on land on the Seattle waterfront at the same time for a nonviolent demonstration against weapons of war.

The fleet arrival at Seafair is a public relations and recruiting event for the US Navy. Previous years have brought Trident nuclear submarines and Navy warships used to launch Tomahawk cruise missiles in the first and second wars on Iraq, and in the war on Afghanistan. The fleet is displayed for four days in downtown Seattle at tremendous cost to taxpayers while crucial social services in education, health care and transportation are being cut for lack of funds.

Please contact Glen Milner at (206) 365-7865 or Mary Gleysteen at (360) 297-3894. Or, email info@gzcenter.org.

Glen Milner is still battling the \$10,000 fine that the Coast Guard levied against him after the Peace Fleet of 2004. With the recent release of GPS records by the Navy, showing the incidents described by the Coast Guard could not have occurred, he anticipates a just resolution to his case.



Beautiful day for a sail: Peace Fleet skippers in 2003 provide a counterpoint to the Navy.

POSTCARDS, FILMS, T-SHIRTS, and BUMPERSTICKERS

"CONVICTION" a documentary about three Dominican nuns, including Ground Zero organizer Jackie Hudson, convicted and sentenced to Federal Prison for their nonviolent protest at a Minuteman III missile site in Northern Colorado. This 48-minute film evokes important conversations about the role of religion in politics, the role of nuclear weapons in national defense and the role of International Law in the Federal Courts. DVD.



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“We need an open and vigorous discussion in every village, town and city about the anti-democratic and anti-Constitutional tendencies inherent in the presidential control of nuclear weapons. Without such discussion, we relegate the fate of the country and the world to the whims of a single individual.”

— David Krieger
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Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
May, 2006

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