

JULIE BISHOP TOLD NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT IS A HUMAN SURVIVAL IMPERATIVE

Written by John Hallam

Sunday, 22 September 2013 15:53 - Last Updated Sunday, 08 February 2015 22:22

MONDAY 23 SEPT 2013

HUMANSURVIVAL PROJECT

(THE HUMAN SURVIVAL PROJECT IS A JOINT PROJECT OF PND AND THE CENTRE FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES AT SYDNEY UNIVERSITY)

JULIE BISHOP TOLD NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT IS A HUMAN SURVIVAL IMPERATIVE

Australia's new foreign minister Julie Bishop has been told in a letter from the joint PND/CPACS Human Survival Project, that nuclear disarmament is a human survival imperative that deserves the government's highest priority attention. The New foreign minister's attention has been drawn to the upcoming High Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament in New York at the UN on 26 September (this coming Thursday), the exact 30th anniversary of 'The Day the World Nearly Ended', and also to the coming October UN General Assembly First Committee. Julie Bishop has been urged to give these the priority attention that her Liberal predecessor Alexander Downer did.

The author of the letter John Hallam has for a number of years campaigned at the level of the United Nations on accidental nuclear war, and has been behind a number of resolutions in the Australian Senate, the European Parliament and the UN General Assembly. He served on an advisory committee reporting to Alexander Downer.

Mr Hallam noted that:

"Nuclear weapons played no role whatsoever in the recent Australian election, and nuclear disarmament these days makes absolutely no headlines. Yet nuclear weapons remain as potent a threat to human survival as they have ever been.

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' 'Doomsday Clock' remains at an unhealthy 5 minutes to midnight, midnight being the large-scale use of nuclear weapons and the consequent destruction of civilisation. The US and Russia continue to retain some 900-1000 warheads each in a status in which they can be

JULIE BISHOP TOLD NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT IS A HUMAN SURVIVAL IMPERATIVE

Written by John Hallam

Sunday, 22 September 2013 15:53 - Last Updated Sunday, 08 February 2015 22:22

launched in minutes or, in some cases, seconds. Peer-reviewed research into the actual consequences of large-scale nuclear weapons use on cities shows that an India-Pakistan nuclear conflict could produce up to a further billion famine-related deaths outside the conflict zone as a result of catastrophic climatic consequences. A US-Russia nuclear exchange, most likely the result of a combination of panic and computer error, would produce temperatures lower than those of the last ice age.”

“There are a number of things that Australia can do right now and in the next month that will make a difference. Australia can give ministerial-level attention to the High Level Meeting on 26th September.

Australia can give its unqualified support with no ifs or buts to the statement on catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons use that will be circulated at the October First Committee. And, again at First Committee, Australia could look seriously at giving its support to a number of UN resolutions on which it currently abstains, as suggested in our letter.”

“Australia needs to give nuclear disarmament its very highest priority, as both Alexander Dower and the previous government sometimes did. Nuclear weapons remain the existential threat they have always been. Nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament should be given the bipartisan priority that should be accorded to a threat that vitally affects both Australia and the world.”

Contact:

John
Hallam
johnhallam2001@yahoo.com.au
jhjohnhallam@gmail.com

h9810-2598
m0416-500-793

JULIE BISHOP TOLD NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT IS A HUMAN SURVIVAL IMPERATIVE

Written by John Hallam

Sunday, 22 September 2013 15:53 - Last Updated Sunday, 08 February 2015 22:22

PEOPLE FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT
HUMAN SURVIVAL PROJECT (A JOINT PROJECT OF PND AND CENTRE FOR PEACE
AND
CONFLICT STUDIES)

HIGH – LEVEL MEETING ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

UNITED NATIONS FIRST COMMITTEE

STATEMENT ON CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS USE

ATTN SENATOR JULIE BISHOP
6273-4112, 6277-8497, 08-9388-0299
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
CC
SENATOR BOB CARR 9228-3655
DFAT 6261-3111

FROM: JOHN HALLAM

Dear Senator Julie Bishop:

Congratulations on becoming Foreign Minister.

As foreign minister, you will have to deal with the question of nuclear disarmament, an issue that was high on Alexander Downer's agenda when I served on an advisory committee of DFAT, to him.

A number of critical issues in the nuclear disarmament area are coming up in the more or less immediate future, on which you will have to make decisions. In making those decisions, it is well to take into account the existential (Human Survival) importance of nuclear disarmament as an issue, and the leading role that Australia has from time to time played in both nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation by both sides of politics.

1)The High Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament will be taking place at the United Nations General Assembly on 26th September. As previous correspondence from me in the shape of a memo to the entire UN General Assembly indicates, the 26th Sept happens to be the exact 30th anniversary of the 'Serpukhov-15 Incident', otherwise known as 'The Day the World Nearly Ended'. At that time, the fate of humanity was for half an hour in the hands of Colonel Stanislav Petrov of the then Soviet Strategic Rocket Forces, whose satellite surveillance system

JULIE BISHOP TOLD NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT IS A HUMAN SURVIVAL IMPERATIVE

Written by John Hallam

Sunday, 22 September 2013 15:53 - Last Updated Sunday, 08 February 2015 22:22

was telling him that the US had just launched. He chose to ignore the warning and thereby saved humanity from the use of some 11,000 warheads, in the process ruining his own career. A film about him is to be released in mid-October during First Committee. Colonel Petrov's 'brush with the apocalypse' relates directly to a resolution in the General Assembly that Australia has supported since 2008, 'Operational Readiness of Nuclear Weapons Systems', sponsored by Switzerland, NZ, Chile, Malaysia and Nigeria. Australia should continue to proactively support this resolution.

The question of 'Catastrophic Consequences of Nuclear Weapons Use' is now foremost in discussions on nuclear disarmament. A statement on 'Catastrophic Consequences' was adopted at the previous First Committee by 32 governments, and at the May 2013 NPT Prepcom in Geneva (attended by the author of this letter) by 80 governments. Though the Australian representatives did find kind words to say about this statement, Australia has so far failed to sign onto it. The potentially catastrophic effects of nuclear weapons use are a potential 'game changer' in discussions about nuclear weapons, and reflect peer-reviewed research that indicates that large-scale nuclear weapons use and its global climatic consequences, would have catastrophic consequences for civilisation and could pose existential issues for humans as a species. Australia should have been amongst the very first to sign it in 2010, and should sign it without equivocation or hesitation now. It is an issue that is highly likely to come up at the High Level Meeting on Sept 26th.

It's worth noting that Australia issued an 'Explanation of Vote' (EoV) in the General Assembly First Committee on 7 Nov 2012, on behalf of itself, Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Rep, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Macedonia, and Turkey, emphasising that the goal of nuclear disarmament continues to be worthy of high-level political attention and supporting the resolution setting up the High Level Meeting. Australia should continue to give nuclear disarmament the high-level attention that it so truly merits. In light of this, you should consider attending this meeting in person.

3) First Committee in October

A bewildering number of worthy resolutions are submitted for adoption by the First Committee of the UN General Assembly (GA) every October. Australia traditionally sponsors a joint resolution with Japan, known as 'United Action Towards the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons'. This has been, and will likely continue to be, the most widely

JULIE BISHOP TOLD NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT IS A HUMAN SURVIVAL IMPERATIVE

Written by John Hallam

Sunday, 22 September 2013 15:53 - Last Updated Sunday, 08 February 2015 22:22

supported resolution on nuclear disarmament in the GA, most recently having been adopted 174-1-13.

Another worthy resolution that Australia promotes is that on the CTBT, last adopted by 184-1-3. Australia must continue to strongly support this, and to urge its great and powerful friends – Both the US and China – to ratify the CTBT.

A number of other resolutions are worthy of Australia's strong support, including the one on operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems,(adopted in 2012 164-4-19) and the 'New Agenda' resolution.('Towards a Nuclear Weapon-free World – Accelerating the Implementation of Nuclear Disarmament commitments, last adopted by 156-7-4, including a yes by Australia.). There will also probably be a resolution or statement in October in the GA on catastrophic consequences. Australia should liaise with Switzerland and South Africa to get its name onto this.

In addition, Australia should consider supporting amongst many others:

--The Malaysia-Costa Rica resolution on a nuclear weapons convention.(Follow-up to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, adopted in 2012 123-24-24) Instead of abstaining on this resolution as previously, Australia should join the distinguished company of NZ, Sweden and Switzerland and 120 others in supporting it.

--The Indian resolution on 'reducing nuclear dangers', last adopted 123-48-15.

--The NAM resolution.

--Resolutions designed to unblock the impasse over a Fissile Materials Cutoff Treaty (FMCT) and other matters in the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva.

Australia should consider a closer working relationship at the level of the GA, with Switzerland, NZ, Austria, Chile, Malaysia, Norway, South Africa, and Costa Rica amongst others who have led the charge on nuclear disarmament over a number of years.

Australia should be proactive in pressing both its US ally and Russia to arrive at an agreement that will lower the operational readiness of the nuclear weapon systems that both sides currently maintain on high alert. This will not substitute for nuclear disarmament and the elimination of nuclear weapons, but will do much to make an accidental apocalypse less likely.

Australia should continue, and build on, the excellent work it has done in the Open-Ended-Working-Group (OEWG) in Geneva, on a practically oriented

JULIE BISHOP TOLD NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT IS A HUMAN SURVIVAL IMPERATIVE

Written by John Hallam

Sunday, 22 September 2013 15:53 - Last Updated Sunday, 08 February 2015 22:22

'building-blocks' approach to nuclear disarmament.

Australia should give its strong and proactive support to the goal (to be reached sooner rather than later) of complete elimination of nuclear weapons, and a nuclear weapons convention or system of interlocking legal instruments that render impossible the creation or re-creation of nuclear arsenals.

Australia should work more closely with its own nuclear disarmament NGO's including but not only, ICAN, MAPW, and of course People for Nuclear Disarmament and the Human Survival Project.

Finally your government should consider re-establishing the National Consultative Committee on Disarmament, perhaps as an Advisory Committee on National Security, Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, that flourished under Alexander Downer. Your government should also consider enlisting the services of former foreign minister Gareth Evans and former Prime Minister Sir Malcolm Fraser.

I hope these thoughts on nuclear disarmament are helpful,

John
Hallam
johnhallam2001@yahoo.com.au,
jhjohnhallam@gmail.com,
m0416-500-793
h61-2-9810-2598
fax 61-2-9699-9182