



THE FOGHORN NEWS

CUTTING THROUGH THE FOG OF WAR * VETERANS FOR PEACE HUMBOLDT BAY * CHAPTER 56

AUTUMN 2023



Whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg talks with newsmen as he arrives for arraignment on August 16, 1971. Ellsberg was charged with violating the law by leaking the secret Pentagon Papers to the news media. (Bettmann / via Getty Images)

Cold War Hysteria

Part I

by S. Brian Willson

I cannot stress enough the overwhelming toxic spell that Cold War propaganda cast on the minds of three generations, including some of the most intelligent people, and its influence continues today. Relentless Cold War rhetoric accomplished a near total indoctrination of our entire US culture. Religious institutions, academic and educational institutions from kindergarten through

See page 10: "Cold War"

Open Letter to President Biden

by Veterans For Peace

We are writing you on the occasion of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which has been declared by the United Nations General Assembly to be celebrated annually on September 26.

As veterans who have

See page 5: "No More Nukes"

Living on a Deadline in the Nuclear Age:

Some Personal News

by Daniel Ellsberg (Reprinted from Common Dreams)

Dear friends and supporters,

I have difficult news to impart. On February 17, without much warning, I was diagnosed with inoperable

See page 2: "Daniel Ellsberg"

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ NUCLEAR NEWS
- ◆ GOLDEN RULE PEACE SAILBOAT UPDATE AND WELCOME HOME EVENT INFO
- ◆ OBITUARY HONORING LATE VFP56 MEMBER SAMUEL P. OLINER
- ◆ EVENT CALENDAR
- ◆ VFP MEETING TIMES AND VIGILS
- ◆ VFP PURPOSE STATEMENT
- ◆ LET'S HEAR FROM YOU
- ◆ HOW TO GET INVOLVED
- ◆ HYPERLINKS TO MANY ARTICLES IN DIGITAL VERSION: VFP56.ORG

'A Symbolic Gesture'

The Earth flag's ascension in Arcata raises unprecedented legal and constitutional questions

by Kimberly Wear

Article from the North Coast Journal, excerpted with permission.

On the morning of Dec. 16, the Earth flag was raised to the top of city-owned flagpoles in Arcata, above the United States and California flags, respectively.

The unprecedented

arrangement came after the Arcata City Council voted unanimously in closed session the night before to uphold a voter-approved initiative dictating the new placement but with the caveat that the city would also seek a "judicial resolution" on whether Measure M conflicts with state or federal law.

In a news release announcing the Earth flag's ascension, Mayor Sarah Schaefer said the city council "wanted to honor the important ballot initiative process and the will of our voters."

At the same time, she said, the council recognized Measure M passed by what Schaefer described as a "very small margin," with a final vote of 3,051 to 2,781, or around 52 percent in favor...

While seemingly straightforward on the surface — requiring a flag bearing the "Blue Marble" image of the Earth photographed from the Apollo 17 mission in 1972 be displayed atop all others — Measure M is taking Arcata into uncharted legal

See page 6: "Earth Flag"

The opinions expressed in The Foghorn News are those of the author(s) and may not reflect the opinions of the Editor or the Humboldt Bay Chapter of Veterans For Peace.

Veterans For Peace Invites You to Join

Veterans For Peace, Inc., (VFP) is an international organization of men and women veterans of all eras, many of whom served in Viet Nam, the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and other military conflicts.

VFP was founded in 1985 as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational and humanitarian organization. Since then it has become an international organization with members in all 50 states as well as chapters in Ireland, London, Mexico, Okinawa (Japan) and Viet Nam. VFP is the only veteran organization to hold a permanent Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) seat at the United Nations and it is

Daniel Ellsberg: (From page 1)

pancreatic cancer on the basis of a CT scan and an MRI. (As is usual with pancreatic cancer--which has no early symptoms--it was found while looking for something else, relatively minor). I'm sorry to report to you that my doctors have given me three to six months to live. Of course, they emphasize that everyone's case is individual; it might be more, or less.

I have chosen not to do chemotherapy (which offers no promise) and I have assurance of great hospice care when needed. Please know: right now, I am not in any physical pain, and in fact, after my hip replacement surgery in late 2021, I feel better physically than I have in years! Moreover, my cardiologist has given me

the first military veterans' organization invited to be a member of the International Peace Bureau based in Geneva, Switzerland. National conventions are held annually and members communicate through quarterly newsletters as well as daily list-serve news and alerts, online discussion groups, and the national and many chapter web sites.

Veterans For Peace Statement of Purpose

We, as military veterans, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace. To this end we will work, with others both nationally and internationally:

- To increase public awareness of the causes and costs of war



license to abandon my salt-free diet of the last six years. This has improved my quality of life dramatically: the pleasure of eating my former favorite foods! And my energy level is high. Since my diagnosis, I've done several interviews and webinars on Ukraine, nuclear weapons, and first amendment issues, and I have two more scheduled this week.

As I just told my son Robert: he's long known (as my editor) that I work better under a deadline. It turns out that I live better under a deadline!

I feel lucky and grateful that I've had a wonderful life far beyond the proverbial three-score

years and ten. (I'll be ninety-two on April 7th.) I feel the very same way about having a few months more to enjoy life with my wife and family, and in which to continue to pursue the urgent goal of working with others to avert nuclear war in Ukraine or Taiwan (or anywhere else). When I copied the Pentagon Papers in 1969, I had every reason to think I would be spending the rest of my life behind bars. It was a fate I would gladly have accepted if it meant hastening the end of the Vietnam War, unlikely as that seemed (and was). Yet in the end, that action—in ways I could
See Page 9: "Daniel Ellsberg"

- To restrain our government from intervening, overtly or covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations

- To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons

- To seek justice for veterans and victims of war

- To abolish war as an instrument of national policy

To achieve these goals, members of Veterans For Peace pledge to use non-violent means and to maintain an organization that is both democratic and open with the understanding that all members are trusted to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace.

Veterans For Peace Objective:

We draw on our personal experiences and perspectives gained as veterans to raise public awareness of the true costs and consequences of militarism and war - and to seek peaceful, effective alternatives.

Join Us:

We encourage all veterans, family members and supporters to join us in creating a global culture of peace and non-violence.

For the national VFP Newsletter go to:
veteransforpeace.org

VETERANS FOR PEACE
HUMBOLDT BAY
Chapter 56
PAGE 2

THE FOGHORN NEWS CALENDAR



MONTHLY MEETING

Every 1st Thurs., 6 pm, VFP Chapter 56 general meetings are at the Labor Temple, Eureka.

WEEKLY EVENTS:

Sundays at 4pm: Food Not Bombs: Free food for anyone at Arcata Plaza.

Weekly Peace Vigils:

Arcata: Fridays 5pm-5:30pm VFP 56 members and others stand on the southwest corner of the Arcata Plaza, 8th & H St.

Eureka: Thursdays 4:30-5:30pm VFP 56 members and others stand in front of the Humboldt County Courthouse on the corner of 5th & I Streets.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Wed 13 Sept, 7:00-7:30 a.m. (PST): United Nations International Day of Peace: Peace Bell Ceremony. Remarks by [Secretary-General](#) & [President of the GA.](#) Livestream: [webtv.un.org](#)

Fri 22 Sept, 5:45pm: California Native American Day, locally this will be celebrated at Jay Willard Gym, Eureka.

Thurs. 5 Oct- Sat. 7 Oct: North Coast Stand Down, offering veterans meals, medical, dental, clothing, showers, pet services, job assistance, community and more. At

Humboldt County Fairgrounds in Ferndale. More info: 707-826-6272, [northcoaststanddown.org](#)

Fri. 6 Oct- Sun. 8 Oct: Sacred Peace Walk, an anti-nuclear and anti-military drone event in the Nevada Desert. For info: [nevadadesertexperience.org](#)

Sun 8 Oct: WELCOME THE GOLDEN RULE PEACE SAILBOAT BACK TO HUMBOLDT BAY! All day event at the Samoa Women's Club. For more info email Jack at [jirvine332@gmail.com](#) or call us at 707-273-9815.



Mon 16 Oct, 1am-2:30am: United Nations World Food Day. Livestream from Food And Agriculture Organization of the United Nations headquarters. This year's theme is "Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind." Special messages including from Pope Francis and the UN Secretary-General,

António Guterres. Register for livestream at: [fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qk5SQ9vYS-KKdLrBLNUPJA#/registration](#)

Sat. 21 Oct - Sat 28 Oct: National Mobilization to Peacefully Stop U.S. Drone Wars: Creech Air Force Base, Nevada. [Shutdowncreech.blogspot.com](#)

Sun 12 Nov, 5pm: Opening Session of Merchants of Death War Crimes Tribunal: Holding U.S. Weapons Manufacturers Accountable for War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity. Register for livestream at: [merchantsofdeath.org/action](#)

Sat 11 Nov: Armistice Day (Remembrance Day/Veterans Day). Commemorating the signing of the peace agreement ending WWI, and honoring the victims of the war. Encyclopedia Britannica: "It was hoped by many that World War I, being an [unprecedented](#) conflict in its scope, would be 'the war to end all wars,' and that Armistice Day would therefore serve as an eternal warning never to repeat the past. The arrival of [World War II](#), however, tragically complicated that view and, consequently, the meaning of Armistice Day. The United States switched the name of the holiday to [Veterans Day](#)

on June 1, 1954, and repurposed it to honour veterans of the U.S. military in general." VFP National urges us to: "#ReclaimArmisticeDay as a "day dedicated to the cause of world peace," as it was celebrated at the end of World War I when the world came together to recognize the need for lasting peace." For 11 ways to take action this Armistice Day go to: [veteransforpeace.org/take-action/armistice-day](#)

27 Nov - 1 Dec: United Nations Second Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The Convention Note says: "States that are not yet willing to become parties to the [TPNW] should, at a minimum, commit to attending meetings of states parties as observers... Attending meetings of states parties to the TPNW as an observer should not be seen as a substitute for joining the treaty."

CLOTHING DONATION:

To donate clean and smoke-free clothing and toiletries to veterans and others in need, call Arthur at 707-630-2124 or Gordy at 707-499-1029 or email: [butsushu@gmail.com](#) Pick ups can be arranged or left at Arthur's house at: 2150 McKinleyville Ave. McKinleyville, CA 95519

Samuel P. Oliner: 1930-2021

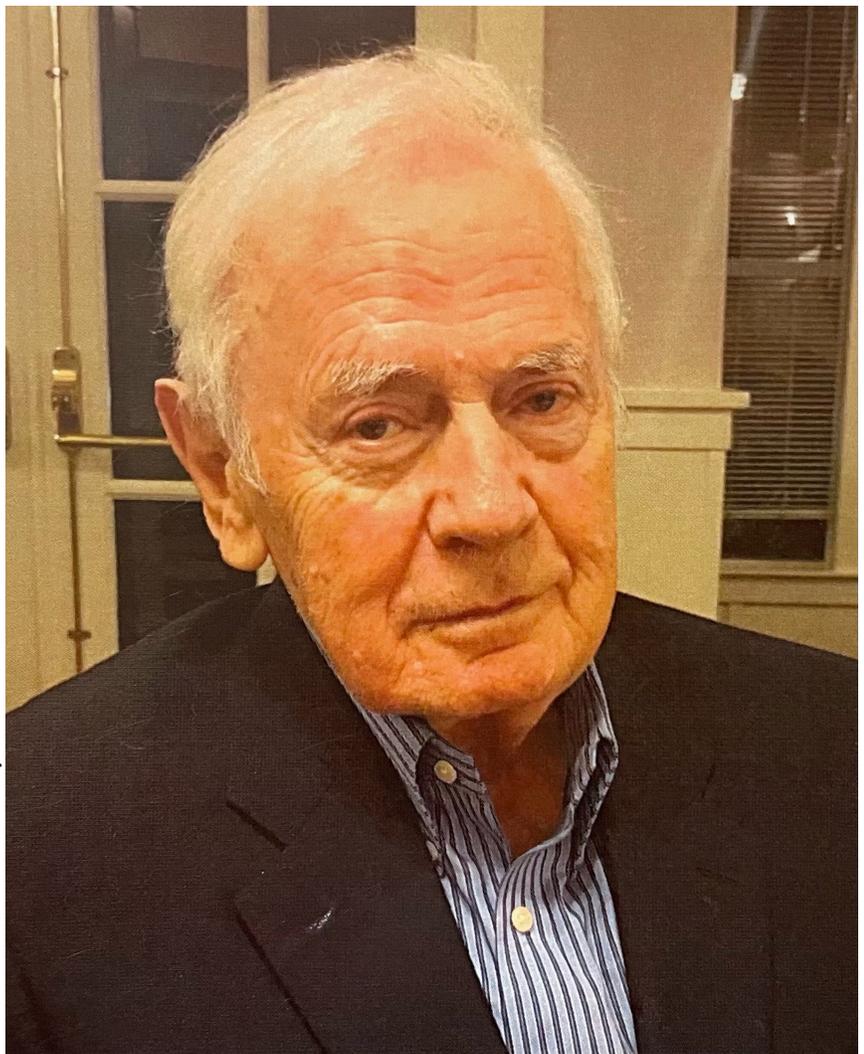
Authored by family of Samuel P. Oliner, Posted by [North Coast Journal Staff](#) on Nov 23, 2021

Samuel P. Oliner passed away on November 17th, 2021. He was born in Zyndranowa, Poland, in 1930. Zyndranowa was a farming village in southern Poland near the Czech border in the Carpathian Mountains. He lived on the small farm belonging to his grandparents Isak and Reisel Polster, together with his parents and siblings. Sam was left orphaned by the barbarity of Nazi-occupation during World War II, aided in his survival by a Polish family who risked their lives to rescue him.

After the war, Sam immigrated to England where he began his formal education at Bunce Court School in Kent in 1946. In 1950, he made his way to New York City with the help of relatives. Shortly after his arrival in America, Sam was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the Korean War (Bronze Service Star, National Defense Medal, Presidential Unit Citation). While attending Brooklyn College on the G.I. Bill upon his return from Korea, Sam met Pearl Merkur on a blind date arranged by his best pal Fred Knauer. Sam and Pearl were married in 1956 and for 65 years before she passed earlier this year.

In 1957, Pearl and Sam packed their U-Haul truck and headed for California. They each received a PhD from the University of California at Berkeley, and together they became professors at Humboldt State University. Sam was chair of the Sociology Department, and by all accounts much beloved by students, staff, and colleagues during his 30 years as a professor. In 1973, he founded the Humboldt Journal of Social Relations, which remains in publication to this day. Sam and Pearl founded the Altruistic Personality and Prosocial Behavior Institute at HSU. Together, they were awarded HSU's Scholar of the Year prize in 1990. Sam has authored nine books and numerous other publications focusing on the subject of altruism and why some people risk their lives to help others. He published his most recent literary work this year, at age 91. A central theme that runs throughout his scholarship is the importance of kindness and courageousness, even in the darkest times. He was, at his core, an optimist. Sam was humble, caring, generous and always inquisitive.

Sam is survived by his three sons and their families: Ron and Kristen, and their sons Evan and Daniel; David and Liz, their daughter Lauren and



sons William and Harrison; and Ian and Valerie, and their sons Adam and Jason. He is survived also by his cousin Martin, whose parents were instrumental in making Sam's arrival in the United States possible. Most recently, he had the unrelenting support of his sons following the heartbreaking loss of his beloved wife Pearl only nine months ago. He leaves behind close friends and colleagues too numerous to mention, among them Arthur Rose, his childhood friend from Bunce Court.

He will be in our hearts for eternity. May his memory be a blessing.

Editor's note: Sam became a member of the

local chapter of VFP in the early 1990's. He made contributions to VFP campaigns in the 1990s, and participated in our weekly peace vigil on the Arcata Plaza during the early stages of the Gulf War. He later made contributions to the restoration of VFP project The Golden Rule Peace Sail Boat.

For the national VFP Newsletter go to:
veteransforpeace.org



fought in multiple U.S. wars, we are concerned about the very real danger of a nuclear war that would kill millions of people and could possibly even destroy human civilization. Therefore we are asking to have input into the Nuclear Policy Review that your administration has recently initiated.

Veterans For Peace urges you to do the following:

1. **Adopt and announce a policy of “No First Use”** of nuclear weapons and make that policy credible by publicly decommissioning U.S. ICBMs that can only be used in a first strike;

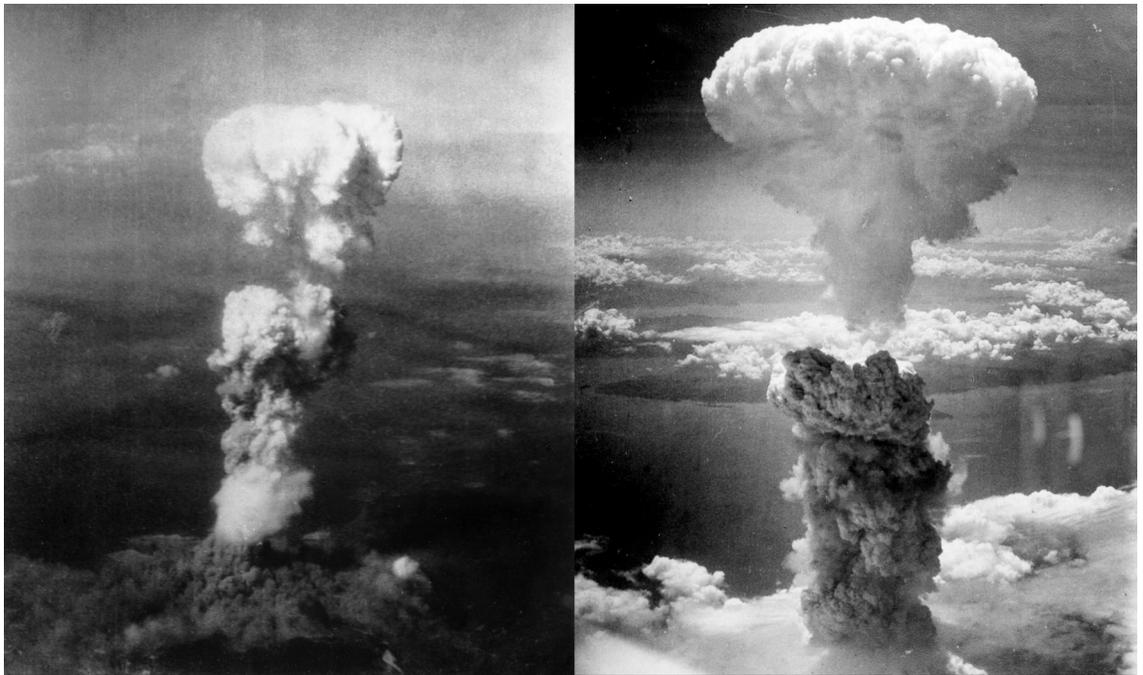
2. **Take U.S. nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert** (Launch On Warning), thus reducing the probability of an accidental, unauthorized, or unintentional nuclear exchange.

3. **Cancel plans to replace the entire US arsenal** with enhanced weapons at a cost of more than \$1 trillion over the next 30 years;

4. **Redirect the money** thus saved into environmentally sound programs, including the cleanup of toxic and radioactive waste left during eight decades of the nuclear cycle;

5. **Sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** and provide global leadership for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Sincerely,
VETERANS FOR PEACE



Left: Atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan by US Air Force 6 August 1945. Right: Atomic bombing of Nagasaki on 9 August 1945. Photo taken by US First Lieutenant Charles Levy.

Nuclear News

Fukushima, Japan

ScienceAlert January 25, 2023: “Over ten years ago, a tsunami triggered a disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant on Japan’s east coast. After the accident, large amounts of radioactivity contaminated the ocean leading to the imposition of a [marine exclusion zone and huge reputational damage](#) to the regional fishing industry.

Huge volumes of contaminated water have accumulated on the site since. Water was needed to cool the damaged reactors and groundwater that became contaminated as it infiltrated the site had to be pumped out and stored.

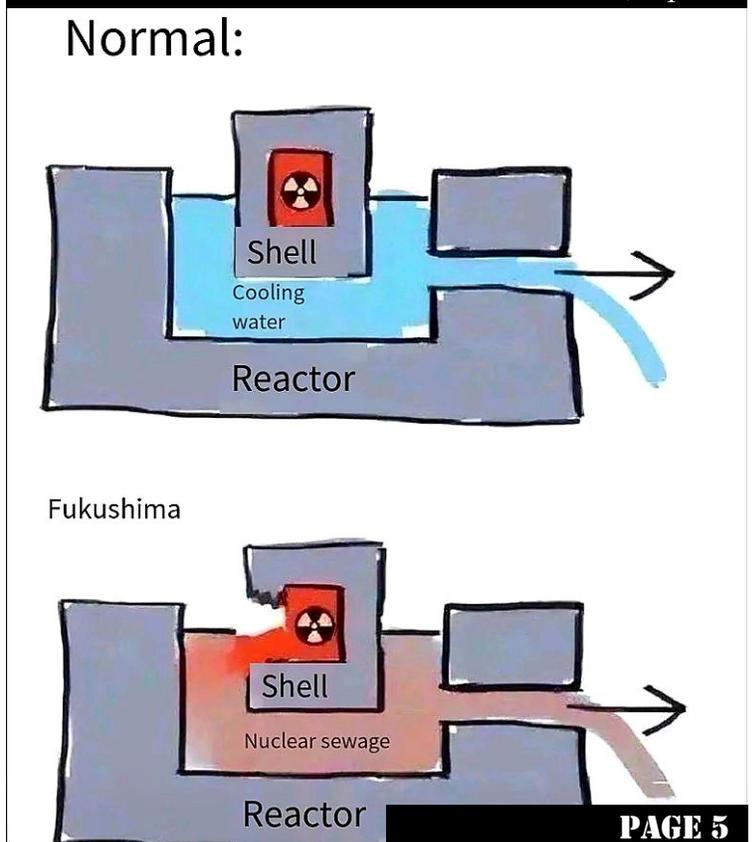
Over 1,000 tanks have been built on site to store [over a million tonnes](#) of radioactive water.

But the site is running out of storage space and

the tanks could leak, particularly in the event of an earthquake or a typhoon. So the Japanese authori-

See page 6: “Nuclear News”

Popular graphic below counters Japanese propaganda aimed to downplay dangers of the release of nuclear waste from the 3 core melt downs at Fukushima, Japan.



territory.

The initiative is believed to be the only of its kind in the United States, not only in dispatching the traditional protocol of flying the American flag above all others but by enacting a local law as a symbolic gesture, in this case expressing an opinion of Arcatans that the well-being of the Earth needs to be prioritized...

Putting the Earth flag on top, as the ballot language states, is not meant to disrespect the United States flag, Meserve said, but to push a conversation about the climate crisis and other threats to the global community, and the need to focus on the health and safety of the planet as a whole.

He said the local Veterans for Peace chapter has been supportive of the effort...

Representatives of the American Legion Arcata Post 274 presented a letter to the council last month requesting the United States flag be restored atop of the flagpole at the Arcata Plaza, a veterans' memorial donated by the post to the city in 1957.

The letter starts off by stating the passage of Measure M was "painful to our members" and many "were offended and downright angry." It goes on to say the issue is not with the Earth flag, which is displayed at the post's hall, but the placement. And, while the members respect the "will of the people," they believe many voters were not aware the plaza flagpole was a memorial to those



Photo: Incheon Harbor Korea on 17 September 1950, the 2nd day of United States attack of the Battle of Incheon.

who served their country in the Armed Forces.

Meserve said he thinks the American Legion's letter might have acted as a trigger to push the city forward in seeking the court's guidance.

"There were several different viewpoints represented in the no votes," he said. "It's not as if all the no votes were people deeply offended by the American flag not being on top."...

Kimberly Wear (she/her) is the North Coast Journal's digital editor. Reach her at (707) 442-1300, extension 323, or kim@northcoastjournal.com

Editor's note: This is an excerpt of the original article which provided more detail about legal issues, and diverse opinions regarding the voters that opposed the measure. Full article at northcoastjournal.com/humboldt/a-symbolic-gesture/Content?oid=26326164

Nuclear News: (From page 5)

ties have given the site permission to release the stored radioactive water through a pipeline to the Pacific Ocean."

Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) August 22, 2023: "TEPCO would like to deeply apologize for the great burden and inconvenience that it has caused on the people of Fukushima, and the whole of society, as a result of the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station Accident.

At the meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Council held today, the Japanese Government announced that it had made a decision in regards to the commencement period of the discharge of water treated with multi-nuclide removal equipment...into the sea and asked that TEPCO begin preparations for the commencement of discharge."

Reuters News August 24, 2023:

"Japan started releasing treated radioactive water from the wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean on Thursday, a polarising move that prompted China to announce an immediate blanket ban on all aquatic products from Japan.

China is "highly concerned about the risk of radioactive contamination brought by... Japan's food and agricultural products," the customs bureau said in a statement."

North Korea

A.P. News August 29, 2023:

"The U.S. and South Korean militaries have been separately holding [summer bilateral exercises](#) since last week. North Korea views such U.S.-involved training as an invasion rehearsal, though Washington and its partners maintain their drills are defensive.

Kim said in a speech marking the country's Navy Day on Monday that the waters off the Korean Peninsula have been made unstable "with the danger of a nuclear war" because of U.S.-led hostilities, according to the official Korean Central News Agency."

Al Jazeera July 10, 2023:

"A US nuclear-powered cruise missile submarine arrived at the port of Busan in South Korea last month, while in June, a US [B-52 strategic bomber](#) took part in air

See Page 7: [Nuclear News](#)

Nuclear News: (From page 6)

military drills with South Korea in a show of force following [North Korea's failed launch](#) of a spy satellite.

Pyongyang said the US move to sail nuclear submarines has created a "very dangerous situation that makes it impossible for us not to realistically accept the worst-case scenario of a nuclear confrontation".

Al Jazeera April 6, 2023: "North Korea has accused the United States and South Korea of escalating tensions "to the brink of nuclear war" through their joint military drills and promised to respond with "offensive action," according to state media KCNA...

Attributed to Choe Ju Hyon, an international security analyst, the article added: "The reckless military confrontational hyste-

ria of the US and its followers against the [Democratic People's Republic of Korea] DPRK is driving the situation on the Korean peninsula to an irreversible catastrophe ... to the brink of a nuclear war."...

US and South Korean forces have been conducting a series of annual springtime exercises since March, including air and sea drills involving a US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier as well as B-1B and B-52 bombers, and their first large-scale amphibious landing drills in five years. On Wednesday, [B52s were deployed](#) for their first use on the peninsula in a month."

Ukraine

CBS News March 21, 2023: "[The U.K.] announced not only the supply of tanks to Ukraine, but also shells with depleted uranium,"

Putin [told reporters](#) after [talks at the Kremlin](#) with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping. "I would like to note that if all this happens, then Russia will have to respond accordingly ... The collective West is already starting to use weapons with a nuclear component."

Newsweek May 15, 2023: "Huge 'Mushroom' Blast in Khmelnytskyi Reignites 'Depleted Uranium' Claims...Newsweek could not rule out the possibility that the "depleted uranium" shells provided by the U.K. had been stored there..."

Yahoo News May 15, 2023: "Yesterday, [videos emerged showing an absolutely gigantic](#) fireball rising over the outskirts of Khmelnytsky. The destruction was clearly caused by a series of huge secondary explo-

sions...some have posited that newer ammunition used to support the war effort may have also been stored there. Regardless, Russia looks to be targeting these facilities to destroy any relevant materiel stored in them."

What The Government Knows About Depleted Uranium

Army Environmental Policy Institute (AEPI), 1995:

"If depleted uranium enters the body, it has a potential to generate significant medical consequences. The risks associated with depleted uranium are both chemical and radiological."

U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), Operation Desert Storm: Army Not Adequately Prepared to Deal With Depleted Uranium Contamination, 1993:

"Inhaled insoluble oxides stay in the lungs longer and pose a potential cancer risk due to radiation. Ingested DU dust can also pose a radioactive and a toxicity risk."

U.S. Army Armament, Munitions & Chemical Command report, Kinetic Energy Penetrator Long Term Strategy Study, 1990:

"Aerosol DU exposures to soldiers on the battlefield could be significant with potential radiological & toxicological effects."

See page 8: "Uranium"



Photo of mushroom cloud explosion in Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine, suspected to be a Russian missile attack on a weapons depot widely speculated to have contained depleted uranium munitions provided by the United Kingdom, with dangers of depleted uranium in general, and the blast, downplayed by Western States and media.

Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses, Final Report, 1996:

“US service personnel also could have been exposed to DU if they inhaled or ingested DU dust particles during incidental contact with vehicles destroyed by DU munitions, or if they lived or worked in areas contaminated with DU dust from accidental munitions fires. Thus, unnecessary exposure of many individuals could have occurred.”

Col. Eric Daxon, Radiation Protection Staff Officer, US Army Medical Command, summarizing results of a Dec 1989 report from the Ballistic Research Laboratory, Radiological Contamination From Impacted Abrams Heavy Armor:

“Personnel in or near (less than 50m) an armored vehicle at the time these vehicles were struck by DU munitions could receive significant internal DU Exposures (i.e. those in excess of allowable standards).”

Brent Scowcroft, former National Security Advisor to President Bush, from an executive summary: Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Illnesses, 2004 Report & Recommendations:

“Depleted Uranium is more of a problem than we thought when it was developed. But it was developed according to standards & was thought through very carefully. It turned out perhaps to be wrong.”

The U.S. Department of Defense expressed its first & only admission of



Graphic from International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons. Created in protest to Western States' supply of depleted uranium weapons to Ukraine.

responsibility for Gulf War Uranium Exposures in its 1998 Annual report of the Office of the Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense for Gulf War Illnesses:

“Our investigations into potential health hazards of depleted uranium point to serious deficiencies in what our troops understood about the health effects posed on the battlefield...Combat troops or those carrying out support functions generally did not know that DU contaminated equipment, such as enemy vehicles struck by DU rounds, require special handling...The failure to properly disseminate such information to troops at all levels may have resulted in thousands of unnecessary exposures.”

COMMENTARY ON GOVERNMENT KNOWLEDGE OF DU HEALTH EFFECTS

Decades of government funded investigation into the potential health and environmental effects of ingested uranium are referenced above. Uranium is

highly regulated because its properties are indisputable with known hazards to living systems.

The effects of ingested DU (low-level radiation & chemical exposures) may take years to declare as a documented disease. There is no epidemiology data on individuals potentially exposed to DU aerosols (soldiers or civilians).

“No data” means no confirmed basis to cease the use of these very superior DU munitions, nor assume any health, legal, financial, or environmental liabilities.

As was said about Agent Orange exposure 40 years ago (a condition now recognized and compensated for by the VA), “as far as we know DU is safe.”

In May of 2003 Lt. Col. Michael Sigmon, deputy surgeon for the US Army's V Corps, explained to Baghdad journalists the army viewpoint on depleted uranium contamination: “There is not really any danger, at least that we know about, for the people of Iraq.”

Considering the Depart-

ment of Veteran Affairs DU Testing Program uses a study group too small to scientifically conclude anything, and uses an inferior testing method with a 180-day period of validity (while available methods can detect DU 20 years after exposure), those skeptical of government priorities may be concerned the testing program is a shield to prevent better data from emerging... data that could threaten the continued use of radiological agents DU in warfare.

The main reason the government DU testing program isn't larger is troops don't know about DU. They haven't had their required DU safety training. Three General Accounting Office reports in the 1990s said the same thing “DU safety training needed” and “troops inadequately prepared.”

This article is derived from our VFP Chapter 56 Website on DU:

vfp56.org/knownHazards.html

Daniel Ellsberg: (From page 2)

not have foreseen, due to Nixon's illegal responses—did have an impact on shortening the war. In addition, thanks to Nixon's crimes, I was spared the imprisonment I expected, and I was able to spend the last fifty years with Patricia and my family, and with you, my friends.

What's more, I was able to devote those years to doing everything I could think of to alert the world to the perils of nuclear war and wrongful interventions: lobbying, lecturing, writing and joining with others in acts of protest and non-violent resistance.

I wish I could report greater success for our efforts. As I write, "modernization" of nuclear weapons is ongoing in all nine states that possess them (the US most of all). Russia is making monstrous threats to initiate nuclear war to maintain its control over Crimea and the Donbas--like the dozens of equally illegitimate first-use threats that the US government has made in the past to maintain its military presence in South Korea, Taiwan, South Vietnam, and (with the complicity of every member state then in NATO) West Berlin. The current risk of nuclear war, over Ukraine, is as great as the world has ever seen.

China and India are alone in declaring no-first-use policies. Leadership in the US, Russia, other nuclear weapons states, NATO and other US allies

have yet to recognize that such threats of initiating nuclear war--let alone the plans, deployments and exercises meant to make them credible and more ready to be carried out--are and always have been immoral and insane: under any circumstances, for any reasons, by anyone or anywhere.

It is long past time--*but not too late!*--for the world's publics at last to challenge and resist the willed moral blindness of their past and current leaders. I will continue, as long as I'm able, to help these efforts. There's tons more to say about Ukraine and nuclear policy, of course, and you'll be hearing from me as long as I'm here.

As I look back on the last sixty years of my life, I think there is no greater cause to which I could have dedicated my efforts. For the last forty years we have known that nuclear war between the US and Russia would mean nuclear winter: more than a hundred million tons of smoke and soot from firestorms in cities set ablaze by either side, striking either first or second, would be lofted into the stratosphere where it would not rain out and would envelope the globe within days. That pall would block up to 70% of sunlight for years, destroying all harvests worldwide and causing death by starvation for most of the humans and other vertebrates on earth.

So far as I can find out, this scientific near-consensus has had virtually no effect on the

Pentagon's nuclear war plans or US/NATO (or Russian) nuclear threats. (In a like case of disastrous willful denial by many officials, corporations and other Americans, scientists have known for over three decades that the catastrophic climate change now underway--mainly but not only from burning fossil fuels--is fully comparable to US-Russian nuclear war as another existential risk.) I'm happy to know that millions of people--including all those friends and comrades to whom I address this message!--have the wisdom, the dedication and the moral courage to carry on with these causes, and to work unceasingly for the

survival of our planet and its creatures.

I'm enormously grateful to have had the privilege of knowing and working with such people, past and present. That's among the most treasured aspects of my very privileged and very lucky life. I want to thank you all for the love and support you have given me in so many ways. Your dedication, courage, and determination to act have inspired and sustained my own efforts. My wish for you is that at the end of your days you will feel as much joy and gratitude as I do now.

Love, Dan

Original article published in Common Dreams on 2 March 2023.



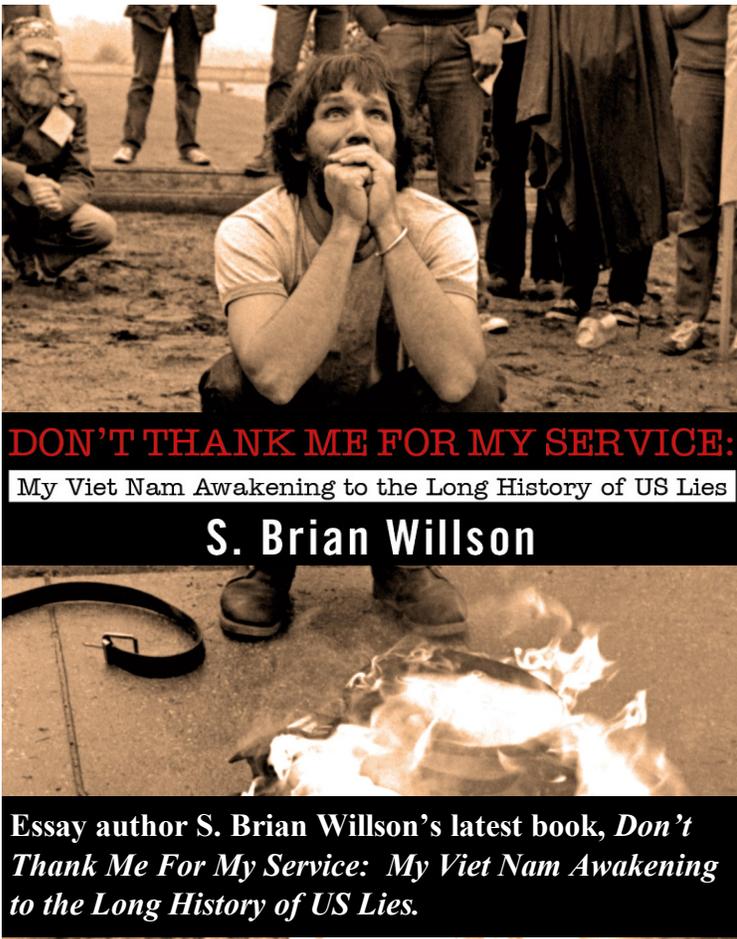
A Letter from Daniel Ellsberg's Family, 6/16/23:

Early this morning, Daniel Ellsberg died peacefully in his home in Kensington, CA. His cause of death was pancreatic cancer, which was diagnosed February 17th. He was not in pain, and was surrounded by loving family. In the

months since his diagnosis, he continued to speak out urgently to the media about nuclear dangers, especially the danger of nuclear war posed by the Ukraine war and Taiwan.

For more on Ellsberg visit his website:

ellsberg.net



DON'T THANK ME FOR MY SERVICE:

My Viet Nam Awakening to the Long History of US Lies

S. Brian Willson

Essay author S. Brian Willson's latest book, *Don't Thank Me For My Service: My Viet Nam Awakening to the Long History of US Lies*.

Cold War: (From page 1)

graduate school, professional associations, political associations from local to national, scientific community, economic system, entertainment industry from radio and TV to Hollywood and sports, fraternal organizations, boy scouts, etc.—all systematically colluded and cooperated to preserve unquestioning belief in the unique nobility of the US American system while instilling pathological, rabid, paranoid fear of “enemies”—in our midst as well as “out there”—in order to rationalize otherwise pathologically inexplicable behavior around the world as well as at home. The atrocities committed in the name of defeating communist bogeymen are nearly

beyond belief. As this example shows, our cultural schooling is so pervasive as to generate a universally compelling mythology powerful enough to conceal its own contradictions.

Our cultural corruption was so complete we proudly utilized B-52s blessed by God-fearing chaplains flying five miles high to bomb unarmed, mostly Buddhist peasants living nine thousand miles across the Pacific. It is very difficult to recognize in ourselves what would be considered criminally insane behavior if carried out by others.

Forty years of fanatical “good us versus evil them” leads directly from the 1917 Russian Revolution, the authentic beginning of the Cold War, leading to Korea and Viet Nam. Prior to 1917,

Russia has been a semi-colonial possession of European capital that had settled into typical “Third World” patterns, supplying raw materials to industrial countries while primarily internally developing with foreign capital while experiencing dramatic escalation of debt and impoverishment. The Russian Revolution was a radical break from western-dominated exploitation, very unacceptable to the capitalist west, the so-called “advanced” industrial countries. It was, in effect, a radical alternative to the way things had been settling in among “moderns” around the non-indigenous global capitalist world.

During Russia’s 1918–1920 Civil War, a number of the allied nations and Japan invaded Russia in efforts to crush socialism. Winston Churchill, England’s Minister for War and Air (1919–1921), sought desperately “to strangle at its birth” the Bolshevik state.^[1] A determined effort by 11 Western nations and Japan to nip the revolution in the bud formed expeditionary forces that invaded Russia in 1918 with nearly nine hundred thousand troops in three regions. Archangel in northern Russia, including five thousand US troops; the Odessa region and Crimea in Southern Russia; and Vladivostok in eastern Russia, including seven thousand US troops who remained there until 1920. US casualties during the occupation in northern Russia were nearly 2,900. The State Department told

Congress: “All these operations were to offset effects of the Bolshevik revolution in Russia.”^[2] This US intervention into Russia occurred on President Wilson’s orders without a Congressional declaration of war. It also occurred during peace negotiations that had gotten underway on January 4, 1919 in Versailles, France, to formally end the First World War. The Versailles Treaty was signed June 28, 1919, by Germany and Britain, France, Italy, and Russia, *but not* by the US. The intervention into Russia illustrates how terrified the US and the West were of the ideological alternative to capitalism that the Bolsheviks represented. “High level US planning documents identify the primary threat as ‘radical and nationalistic regimes’ that are responsive to popular pressures for ‘immediate improvement in the low living standards of the masses’ and development for domestic needs, tendencies that conflict with the demand for a ‘political and economic climate conducive to private investment,’ with adequate repatriation of profits and ‘protection of our raw materials.’”^[3] In essence, the Soviet Union was considered a gigantic “rotten apple,” a “challenge . . . to the very survival of the capitalist order.” As Europe was beginning to self-destruct, the US was for the first time becoming a decisive world influence. The

See page 11: *Cold War*

Cold War: (From page 10)

Bolshevik revolution, i.e., Communism, was seen as a global enemy that had to be crushed.^[4]

Truman Doctrine Ushers in a National Security State

Truman's March 12, 1947 containment speech, often described as the formal declaration of the Cold War between the Free World and the forces of Communism, helped entrench the idea that the entire world is the specific business of the United States. Expressing fear of an international Communist threat and marking the beginning of US containment policy, his appeal to congress officially launched the first of thousands of US covert and overt interventions around the world. Despite Truman's focus on Greece and Turkey in this speech, internal documents reveal that South Korea was as important, if not more important in terms of needing to be contained. This was made clear in 1949, when both Secretary of State Acheson and the head of State's policy planning, George Kennan, concluded that successful suppression by Syngman Rhee of a Korean people's independence movement would be a key litmus test of the US's emerging policy of global containment of Communism, despite the Korean's passion for self-determination.

Quelling popular self-determination aspirations (autonomy, democracy) around the world became critical for the assurance

of continued global Western hegemony. Thus, the Cold War really was a series of hundreds of smaller, but brutal hot wars against popular and revolutionary movements in the "Third World" seeking liberation from historic colonialism (the essential lessons of the Russian Revolution), movements that were essentially supported by the alternative represented by the Soviet Union, in addition to the major post-WWII Third World revolutions in Korea and Viet Nam. In the first, we were stalemated in 1953; the second we lost militarily/politically in 1973, though in each case we decimated and destroyed each culture's infrastructure while murdering a combined 10 million plus people.

The above article is an excerpt from an article on S. Brian Willson's blog with full citations, see link below. The second part of this article will be published in a future episode of The Foghorn News.

S. Brian Willson is a Viet Nam veteran and trained lawyer. He has visited a number of countries examining the effects of U.S. policy. His latest book's cover is above. His web essays can be found at:

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The Golden Rule VFP Sailboat Reached Thousands in the Eastern US!

^The Golden Rule's voyage around the "Great Loop" of the Midwestern, Southern and Eastern states has been successful beyond our wildest dreams. After sailing from Minneapolis to the Gulf of Mexico, the Golden Rule visited Cuba and then 50 cities up the East Coast, from Miami, Florida to Bath, Maine. The historic wooden ketch then sailed back to New York City and up the Hudson River, through the Erie Canal, over to Toronto, Canada, and back to Buffalo, New York. "Goldie" is now sailing throughout the Great Lakes, making 18 port stops in Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin before finishing her epic journey in Chicago in mid-

September.

We've had great reception from local peace activists, politicians, and people of faith. Brass bands, Raging Grannies, musicians and artists have welcomed us in many towns. We have had over 350 events in 92 cities, with more to come.

Media coverage has been outstanding, with frequent interviews on local radio, TV and newspapers. Twenty Mayors, City Councils and State Legislatures welcomed the Golden Rule with Proclamations supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Thousands of volunteers helped with events, hosting and crewing the Golden Rule!

Join us for a welcome home event 8 October, see calendar on page 3. For more info on the Golden Rule go to:

vfgoldenruleproject.org

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