

**Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs
and the British Pugwash Group**

ROTBLAT CENTENARY CELEBRATION

The Royal Society, Wednesday 10 December 2008

**Progressing the nuclear disarmament agenda
Policy, diplomacy and science**

Simon Manley

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Simon Manley highlighted three linked challenges:

- **Challenges to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty** by a number of proliferating regimes, for example Iran, North Korea and Syria. There is also the challenge from Non-Nuclear Weapon States that argue that the Nuclear Weapon-States are not fulfilling their commitments under the Treaty.
- **The Civil Nuclear Renaissance.** Whilst the government welcomes the contribution that nuclear energy can make to combating climate change, the nuclear renaissance also increases the risk of fissile material insecurity.
- **The Threat from terrorists,** highlighting the need to increase security of materials and know-how.

The FCO welcomes the approach of pragmatic and scientifically based realism taken in the IISS report on Abolishing Nuclear Weapons. It wishes to take forward policy in this area in a spirit of not of idealism, but pragmatism.

Manley summarised the six key steps set out by the Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs David Miliband in his recent Guardian blog article (A world without nuclear weapons, 8 December 2008) as follows:

- CTBT entry into force. US ratification of the Treaty would call the bluff of states currently hiding behind the US on this issue.
- US-Russia negotiations on substantial nuclear reductions. New agreements are needed to follow the START and Moscow Treaties.
- Stop proliferation by Iran and North Korea. We need to identify measures to dissuade other states from following their example.
- Fissile Material Cut-Off talks without pre-conditions.
- A new system led by the IAEA to enable the civil nuclear energy renaissance to take place in a multilateral framework to minimise the risk of proliferation, eg along the lines of the UK's proposal for an enrichment bond. The UK will bring together an expert conference on this next year.

- Further work on political, military and technical issues underpinning progress towards a world free of nuclear weapons. There is an exercise in Oslo this week on managed access to sensitive nuclear information. Verification is key to this process. The UK is hosting a conference on policy and technical challenges of verification and hopes that the new US administration will work with us to take this forward.

Manley concluded that this is a time of challenge and opportunity, particularly noting the initiative by Kissinger, Shultz, Perry and Nunn.

[With thanks to Nicola Butler who produced these informal notes.]