



Creating a Culture of Peace for the Twenty-first Century

Lola Kristof

For nearly fifty years, the United Nations Association of San Francisco has represented the ideas and ideals of the United Nations in the city of its creation in 1945.

Now we are helping to create a **Culture of Peace in the Twenty-first Century**:

1. Creating a Culture of Peace through Education

Through Model United Nations programs in colleges and high schools, the United Nations Club at Lowell High School, and essay contests and speakers in the schools, we aim to teach young people about the value of the United Nations.

2. Creating a Culture of Peace Through Business

UNA-SF's **Consumers for Social Responsibility (CSR)** project was created to provide a forum for constructive dialogue between stakeholders toward responsible globalization that benefits all. CSR aims to fill a need by informing and empowering consumers to make educated purchasing decisions that patronize socially, environmentally and ethically responsible businesses. By using their buying power, consumers can bring about desired change in the way business is conducted.

3. Creating a Culture of Peace Through the Arts

The **Artists for Global Peace (AGP)** project of UNA-SF envisions the next stage of human development: a world in which the universal language of art becomes one of the primary links in peacemaking and uniting the people of the world.

We aim to create a network of peace-minded artists and organize concerts, exhibitions, open forums, dialogues, and "meet the artist" events bringing people together to create a more interconnected global society. > 2

AN UNFATHOMABLE RISK If Doomsday Clock Strikes 12, Midnight Will Last Forever

Douglas Mattern

[Douglas Mattern (worldcit@best.com), a UNA-SF board member, is president of the Association of World Citizens, a peace group with chapters in 51 countries. From an article in San Jose Mercury-News, May 14, 2000, reprinted at UNA-SF's web site, <http://www.una-sf.org>.]

Ten years after the end of the Cold War, there are still 30,000 nuclear weapons stockpiled in the world. The United States and Russia have several thousand nuclear warheads on hair-trigger alert, ready to launch with a few minutes' notice. And the official defense doctrine of the United States and Russia remains "mutual assured destruction," with the appropriate acronym **MAD**.

In May 2000, at a UN conference on non-proliferation in New York, the five main nuclear powers pledged, under pressure, "unequivocal commitment" to eliminating atomic weapons. It was a meaningless promise, for they set no timetable or agenda to meet that goal. A similar pledge made in the Security Council in 1995 also produced no results.

Danger building

Instead, the nuclear danger is actually increasing. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists has moved the hands of its "doomsday clock" toward midnight. The Canberra Commission on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons warns, "The risk of use has increased."

The last known close call came in November 1995, when the monitors of the Russian Strategic Rocket Force at the Olenegorsk early-warning radar site registered the launch of a US-Norwegian research missile probe of the upper atmosphere. To the Russians, the missile's trajectory looked like a US Trident missile that carries multiple nuclear warheads. This set off the alarms of the Russian nuclear weapons command, which notified then-President Boris Yeltsin.

Yeltsin reportedly activated his "nuclear briefcase," and for a few minutes, the fate of this nation hung on his judgment, just as it had on Nikita Khrushchev's and John F. Kennedy's during those fateful days of the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. > 3



Consumers for Social Responsibility

Creating a culture of peace through business

CSR was established in July 2000 as a project of the United Nations Association of San Francisco, to promote a win-win solution to economic and social problems arising from globalization. At present, consumers have no way of knowing how the products they purchase are produced.

CSR aims to fill a need by informing and empowering consumers to make educated purchasing decisions that patronize socially, environmentally, and ethically responsible businesses. By using their buying power, consumers can bring about change. Only what sells gets produced.

Mission

CSR strives to create a **culture of peace through business** by providing a forum for constructive dialogue toward responsible globalization that benefits all.

Goals

- To raise awareness that each one of us has the power to make a difference, and the duty to use it responsibly.
- To establish information services to access the names of responsible businesses.
- To hold meetings at regular intervals for multiple stakeholder dialogues.
- To reward corporations that make significant contributions to responsible business practices.

Benefits

- **For Consumers:** the opportunity to access reliable information enabling responsible decision-making for purchases or investments.
- **For Businesses:** a vehicle to reach consumers to supplement costly advertising campaigns.
- **For trade unions and civic organizations:** a platform for the exchange of ideas with all stakeholders.
- **For local governments:** a vehicle to reinforce business-community relationships and educate the public while promoting local economic and commercial activities.

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Join us! Call or write us and we'll discuss ways you can be active!

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< 1 Unfathomable Risk

Today, Russia's early-warning system has deteriorated to the point where it is unable to detect US missile launches for several hours a day. Says Theodore Postol, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who studies Russia's early-warning system, "Against submarines, they basically have no warning."

In addition, there is the volatile situation between the newly nuclear states of India and Pakistan, which show no inclination toward cooling their border tensions.

But the greatest danger of nuclear use comes from US policy—specifically, Washington's plan to build a national missile-defense system. The Pentagon's latest cost estimate for this descendant of Ronald Reagan's "star wars" idea is \$60 billion.

If the United States proceeds with the plan, it will negate the

Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty negotiated in 1972. As Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov warned, America would then have to take full responsibility for unleashing an international arms race.

Chinese defense officials have echoed that sentiment. Wednesday, China's chief arms negotiator, Sha Zukang, warned, "We will not sit on our hands" if missile defense goes forward.

The Clinton plan

The Clinton administration embarked on a program to modernize 6,000 US strategic warheads. This is a direct contradiction of the 1979 SALT 2 treaty, recently ratified by Russia but not by the US Senate, calling for a reduction to 3,500 strategic nuclear warheads for both sides.

The Senate has also rejected the 1996 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Even US allies in Europe are against the new shows of nuclear force, fearing that the United States is setting a bad example and ramping up the arms race again. Several other countries are asking why they should refrain from testing or developing nuclear weapons when the leading nuclear superpower refuses.

The detonation of even one of today's strategic nuclear warheads, which are far more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb, would be a disaster without historical precedent. The only rational goal is zero nuclear weapons.

But it seems as though it may take the detonation, whether by accident or design, of one or more nuclear weapons—which can incinerate entire cities and millions of people—before enough citizens demand that this insanity be ended, that the nuclear genie be put back in the bottle.

A daunting task

Retired Air Force General Lee Butler, a former commander in chief of the Strategic Air Command, said it well when he spoke in San Francisco recently: "We can do better than condone a world in which nuclear weapons are enshrined as the ultimate arbiter of conflict. The price already paid is too dear, the risks run too great. The nuclear beast must be chained. . . . The task is daunting, but we cannot shrink from it."

The great playwright Anton Chekhov said that if a gun appears in the first act of a play, it will be fired by the third act. We are now in the third act of the nuclear era. It is critical to abolish the nuclear gun now, before the doomsday clock strikes midnight.



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The United Nations Association of San Francisco (UNA-SF) is the San Francisco chapter of the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA), a national, nonpartisan, and nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing US participation in the United Nations system and to strengthening that system as it seeks to define and carry out its mission.

UNA-USA, based in New York City, carries out its action agenda through a unique combination of public outreach, policy analysis, and international dialogue.

UNA-USA has over 23,000 members and is the largest foreign policy association in the nation. Its nationwide network of 172 chapters and divisions reaches a broad cross-section of the American public.

UNA-USA provides information and educational services on the work of the UN and on global issues for students, scholars, Congress, and the media. Its publications, including *The InterDependent* are available from its web site <http://www.unausa.org>. Each year UNA-SF coordinates the observance of United Nations Day (October 24) in hundreds of communities across the nation.

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United Nations
Association
of San Francisco



Membership Application

[Membership in UNA-USA and UNA-SF includes a subscription to UNA-SF Courier, the national UNA-USA newspaper The InterDependent, invitations to special events in the Bay Area, and other benefits.]

Enclosed are my tax-deductible membership dues and contributions for twelve months:

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 Individual membership, \$35
 Family or organization membership, \$40
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