

# Putting Humanity First: NGOs, young people and nuclear disarmament



Sandra Ionno Butcher  
Executive Director

Research Center for Nuclear Abolition, Nagasaki University  
14 March 2014

# Outline of talk

- Early days of the nuclear age
- Lucky Dragon (Nishiwaki)
- Rotblat and Russell
- Einstein's last public act
- A new type of organization – example, Pugwash
- Importance of NGOs
- Young people are the key



# Manhattan Project

“Now I am become death, the  
destroyer of worlds.”

J. Robert Oppenheimer  
quoting Hindu scripture, Bhagavad Gita



# Joseph Rotblat Resigned



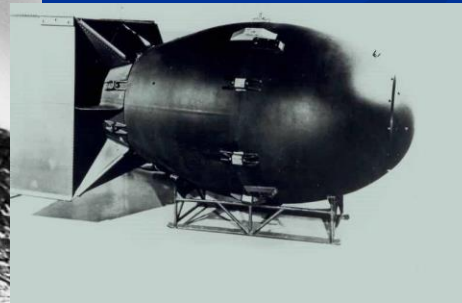
“Why did other scientists not make the same decision ... there were many scientists for whom the German factor was the main motivation. Why did they not quit when this factor ceased to be? ... [I]t is the morality issue at a time of war that perplexes and worries me most.”



# Hiroshima 1945



# Nagasaki



# Rotblat Immediately Worries About H-Bomb



“...once you are going to develop these huge weapons, where are you going to stop? ... this was my reaction on the 6th of August [1945].”

--J. Rotblat

Had an office next to Teller's assistant, Stanislaw Ulam. He knew the Super was on its way

# The Lucky Dragon

1 March 1954

“The sky in the west suddenly lit up and the sea became brighter than day... We watched the dazzling light, which felt heavy.”

Lucky Dragon crew member  
Yoshio Misaki





# Nishiwaki's data



Shizuoka, Japan, March 17, '54. (1)

To the Chief of The Atomic Energy Commission of U.S.A:

As you have already learned through official sources the Japanese Fishing Boat, Daigo Fukuryu Maru, suffered a considerable amount of radio active contamination and all the crew were identified to have suffered from radiation injuries. The tuna and other fish from their catch which was also identified to have a considerable amount of radio activity had been distributed all over the country and sold and partly consumed previously to this scientific investigation.

We happened to identify a considerable amount of radio activity from the tuna distributed to Osaka at the Osaka Central Fish Market. As much as we have learned within 2 hours of testing

毎日新聞静岡支局

Yasushi Nishiwaki investigates the fallout,  
writes to US officials,  
shares data with Rotblat

# Panorama – Rotblat & Russell Meet

- April 13, 1954
- Begin to educate the British public on the new hydrogen bomb
- The two stay in close contact over the years





# Man's Peril, 1954

“I appeal, as a human being to human beings: remember your humanity, and forget the rest.”

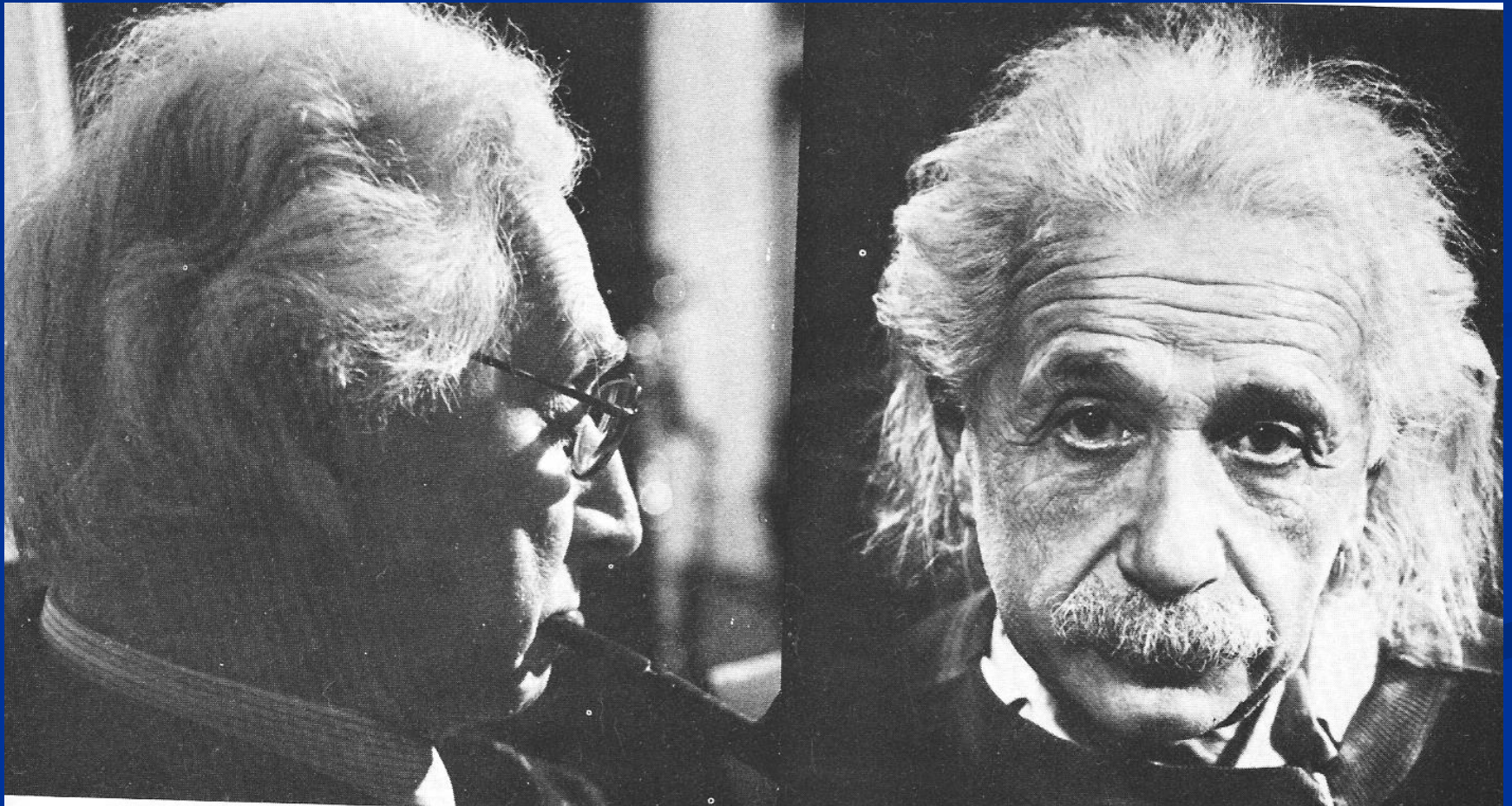
Bertrand Russell

6 to 7 million people  
heard the broadcast

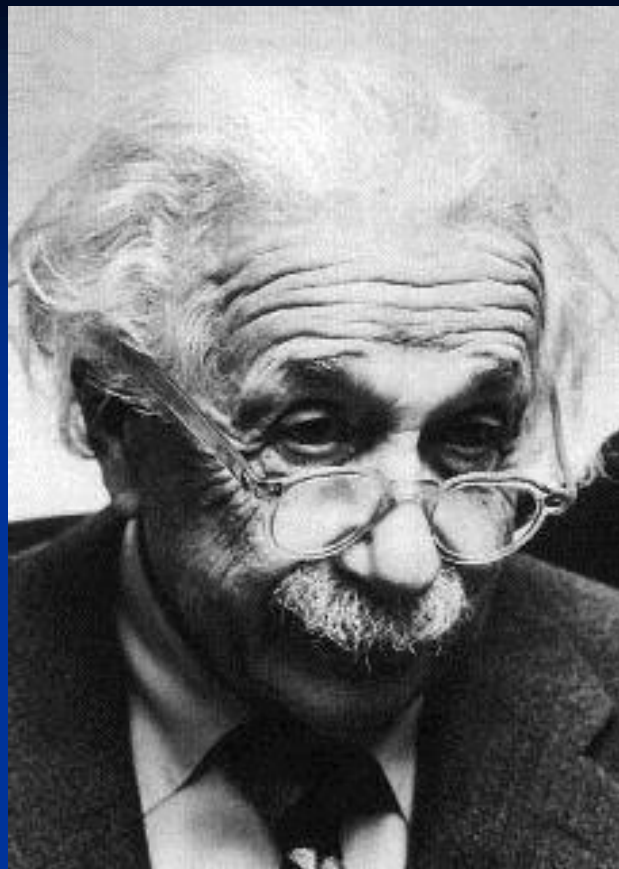


# Russell Writes Einstein

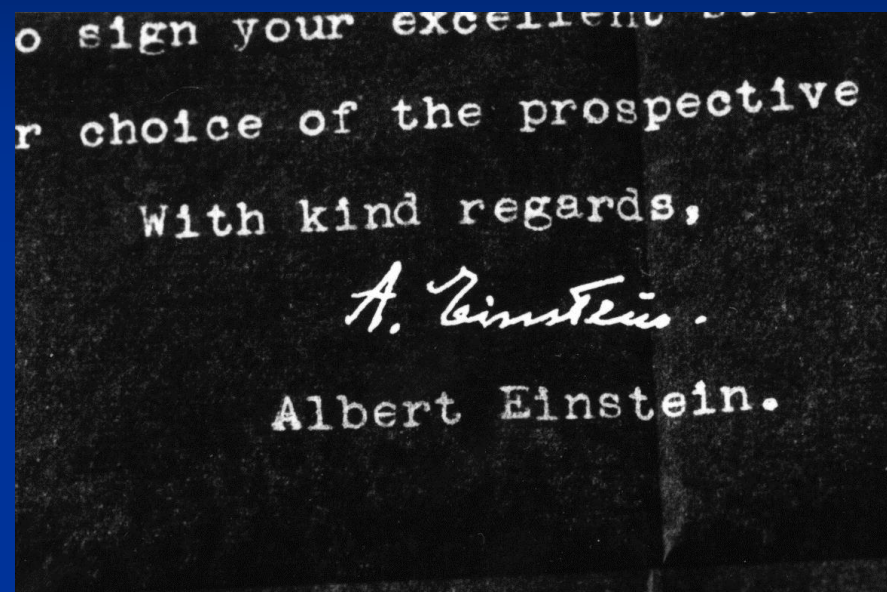
February 11, 1955







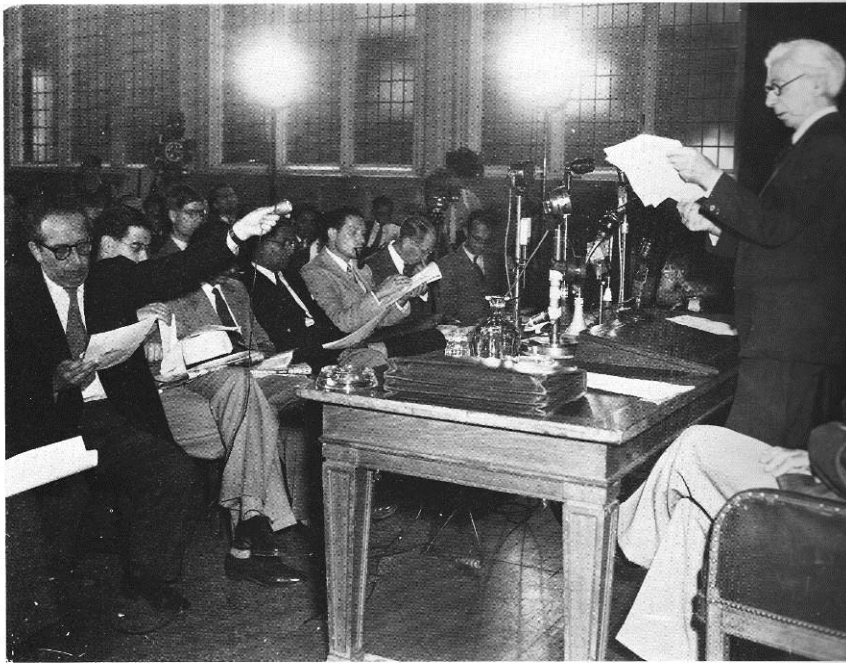
# Einstein's Final Act



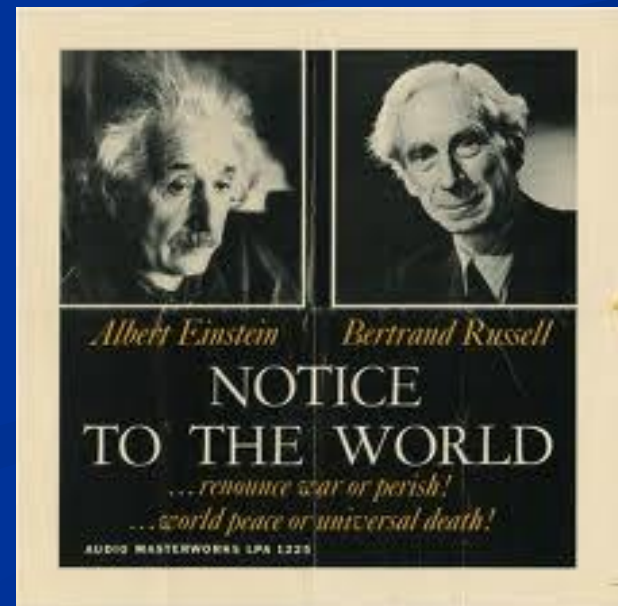
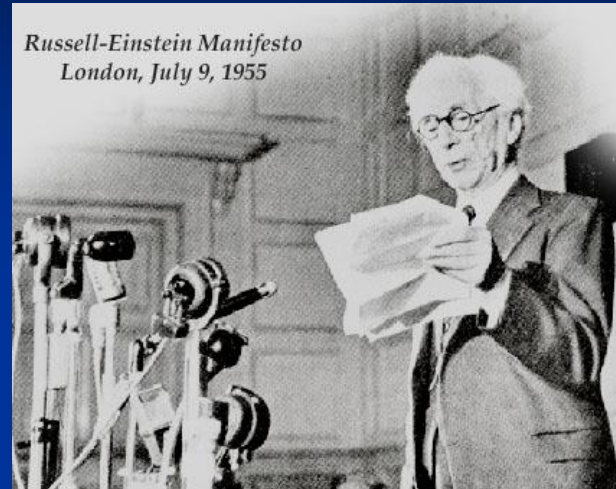
“[T]he last message from the man who was the symbol of the great heights the human intellect can reach, imploring us not to let all this be destroyed by human folly.”

-- Joseph Rotblat

# Russell Einstein Manifesto 9 July 1955



Proclamation of the Russell-Einstein Manifesto at a Press Conference  
in Caxton Hall, London, on 9th July 1955



# Impact

“[The Manifesto] was like finding a crack in the Iron Curtain. ... Especially to me, and to many of those in my generation in that setting, it gave meaning and set a principled direction that we could follow with enthusiasm.”

Ruth S. Adams





# A New Role for Scientists?

“[T]he idea that scientists should take an active part in world affairs was evidently approved by public opinion.”

Joseph Rotblat

## Statement Signed By Einstein and 7 Others Is Released By Bertrand Russell

(Complete Text, Page A-14.)  
Reuters

LONDON, July 9—The late Albert Einstein and seven other eminent scientists said in a joint appeal published today that mankind must abolish war or face the risk of extinction by “slow torture” from radioactive dust and rain.

## Nine Noted Scientists Urge War Ban

Warning on Nuclear  
Peril Was Signed  
by Einstein

By PETER D. WHITNEY  
Based in The New York Times  
LONDON, July 8—Nine eminent scientists, including the late Albert Einstein, have appealed to the nations to forego war because the hydrogen bomb threatens “the continued existence of mankind.”  
Bertrand Russell, British mathematician and philosopher,

Statements on nuclear warfare  
will be found on Page 33.

revealed today that Einstein subscribed to the appeal in a letter that reached London the day the physicist died in Princeton, N. J., April 18.

The appeal called on other scientists, as both the Communist and non-Communist worlds, to join in a conference. The object would be to drive home to the average man the “very real danger of the extermination of the human race by dust and rain from radioactive clouds.”

Among the signers were seven Nobel Prize winners. One of them, Prof. Enrico Fermi,



Bertrand Russell reads a statement subscribed to by Albert Einstein just before his death and signed by eight other scientists calling for the renunciation of war.

## “AS MEMBERS OF A SPECIES”

One cannot deny that Bertrand Russell, the late Albert Einstein and seven other thinkers and philosophers were expressing what might be called a global patriotism when they signed the statement on nuclear warfare released by Lord Russell on Saturday. They were hon-

“What can cure this sickness of our generation?...The answer is an agreement not to go to war....”

Editorial, *New York Times*, July 11, 1955

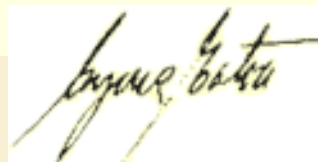
# Eaton's Invitation

July 13, 1955  
TransAtlantic  
Air Mail

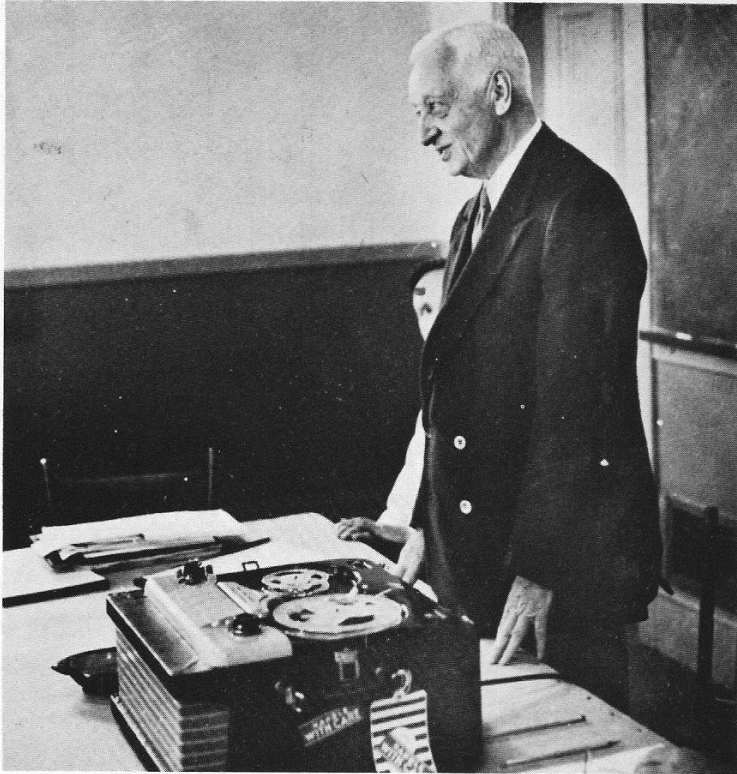
My Lord:

Your brilliant statement on nuclear warfare has made a dramatic world-wide impact. ...

Could I help toward the realization of your proposal by anonymously financing a meeting of the scientists in your group at Pugwash, Nova Scotia? I have dedicated a comfortably equipped residence there by the sea to scholarly groups....

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eugene Eaton", written in dark ink on a white background.

# Courage



Cyrus Eaton giving the address of welcome

the “McCarthy witch hunt was still in the air. ... For many American scientists, participation in the Conference might have spelled the end of their professional career ...

It was only a fearless person like Cyrus Eaton, who broke the taboo, and made the Conference possible.”

--Joseph Rotblat





- “[C]an I say no and feel decent? Would I not be a coward? We are in a bad spot, morally, ethically, nationally...” Mark Oliphant



- ‘Are you afraid of going to a capitalist country alone?’ – Premier Chou to Chou Pei Yuan, the first person from the PRC to be sent to North America



# First Pugwash Conference

July 1957, Pugwash, Nova Scotia



“I came here with hope, but also prepared that it was going to be a complete fiasco.” Joseph Rotblat

# Rotblat and Russell Divide Tasks

“Russell and I had a serious conversation about our participation in the CND and Pugwash. He felt that the two organizations may sometimes diverge in the pursuit of their objectives, and that it would be in any case wasteful for both of us to be active in both organizations. As a result of this discussion I resigned from the CND Executive Committee after about one month, in order to concentrate on Pugwash.”

# Pugwash -An Innovative 'Transnational Organization' (M. Evangelista)

- People in individual capacities
- Non-attribution
- People with access to corridors of power
- Scientific integrity
- The role of families and fun (Whiskey-Vodka parties, remote areas, excursions, good food, and light schedules, etc.)



Can your vision of Cold War 'peaceniks' include elite scientists drinking world class whiskey & vodka at premiere resorts around the world?



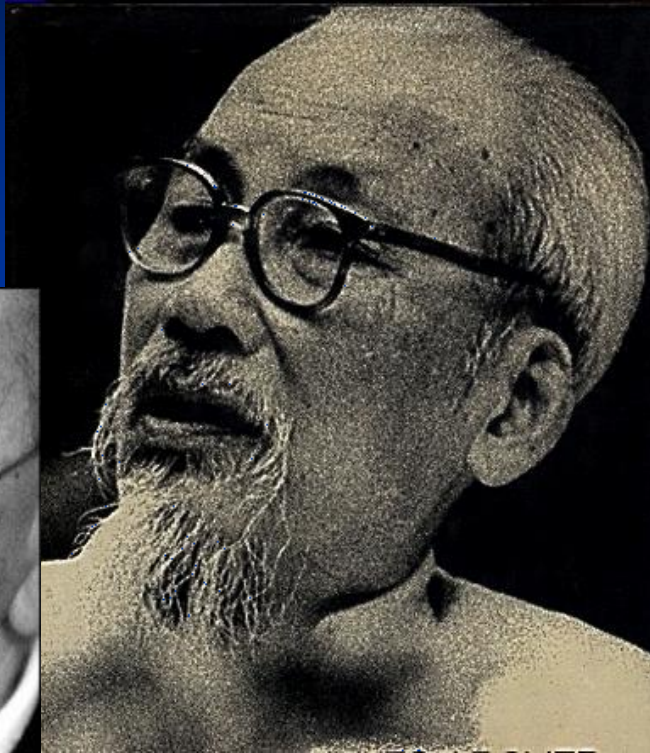
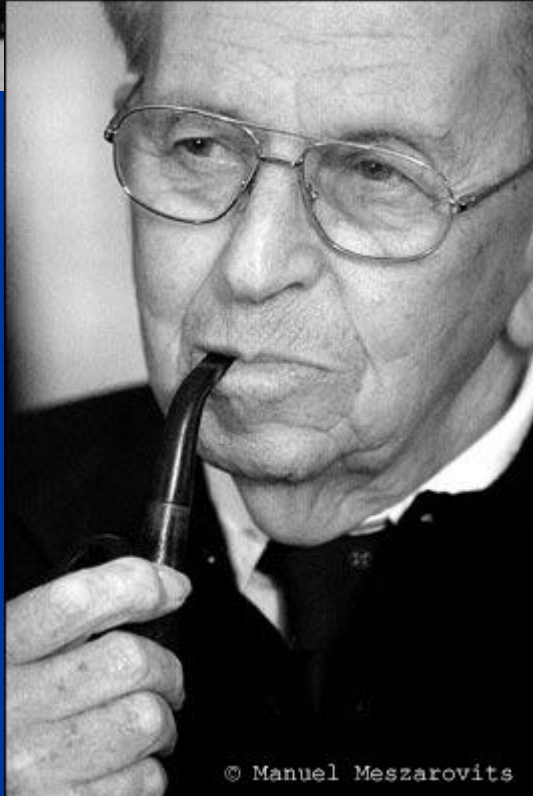
# Involved in most major arms control treaties

- Nuclear test bans
- Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions
- Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty
- Non-Proliferation Treaty
- Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty
- Experts meet to hammer out ideas privately



# Code Name 'PENNSYLVANIA'

A Pugwash Back Channel During Vietnam



*Photo by Marjorie Zaum K.*



Kissinger, Aubrac, Ho Chi Minh, McNamara, (not pictured: Herbert Marcovich)

# Nobel Peace Prize 1995

To Pugwash and to Joseph  
Rotblat

“for their efforts to diminish  
the part played by nuclear arms  
in international politics and in  
the longer run to eliminate such  
arms.”



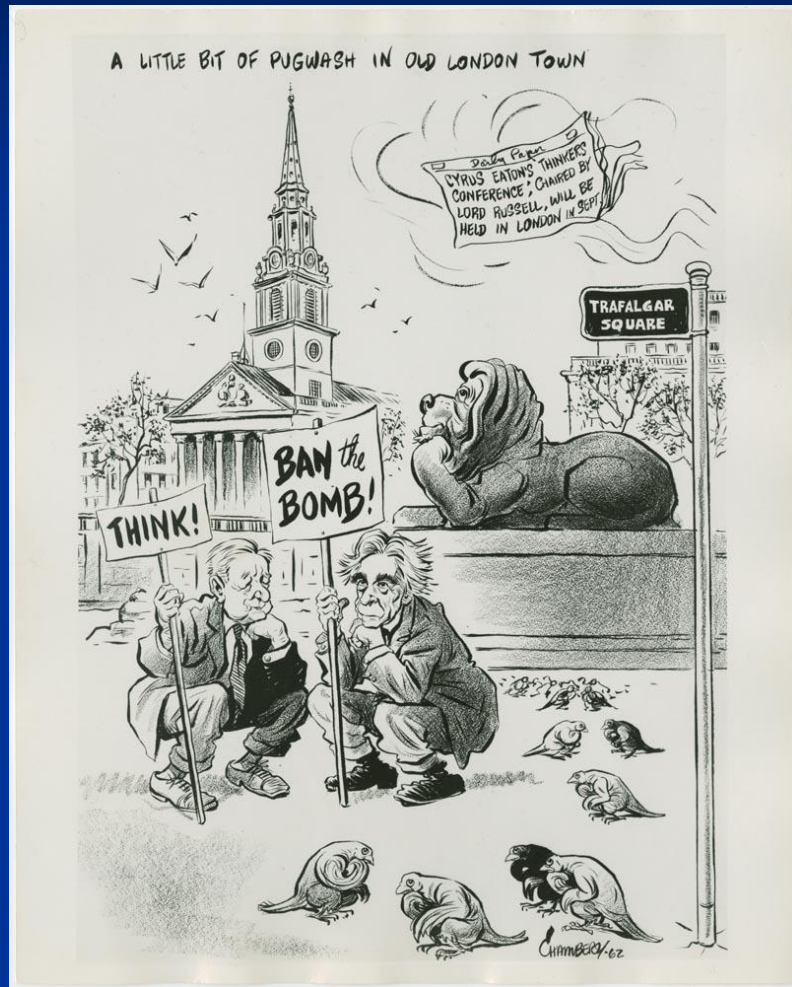
“Pugwash kept alive a spirit of international community in nations where freedom to move was not easily achieved. There was a conception that reason could be relied upon...During the Cold War that was an important spirit to keep alive.”

Ruth Adams

This work continues today



# Principles of Pugwash



The Pugwash Movement is the expression of the awareness of the social and moral duty of scientists to help to prevent and overcome the actual and potential harmful effects of scientific and technological innovations, and to promote the use of science and technology for the purpose of peace.

# Principles (2)

Its main objective is the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical and biological) and of war as a social institution to settle international disputes.



# Principles (3)



To that extent, peaceful resolution of conflicts through dialogue and mutual understanding is an essential part of Pugwash activities, that is particularly relevant when and where nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction are deployed or could be used.



# Pugwash Today



Jayantha Dhanapala, President

Paolo Cotta-Ramusino, Secretary General

Saideh Lotfian, Chair, Pugwash Council



# What Does Pugwash Do?

- Engages people with access to decision makers
- Engages people with experience in policy, scientists, experts and journalists
- Holds private meetings in capitals all over the world
- Creates opportunities for people who cannot normally meet to sit together in relaxed settings
- Nurtures next generation through Student/Young Pugwash

# 60<sup>th</sup> Pugwash Conference, Istanbul, Nov 2014





# Dialogue Across Divides



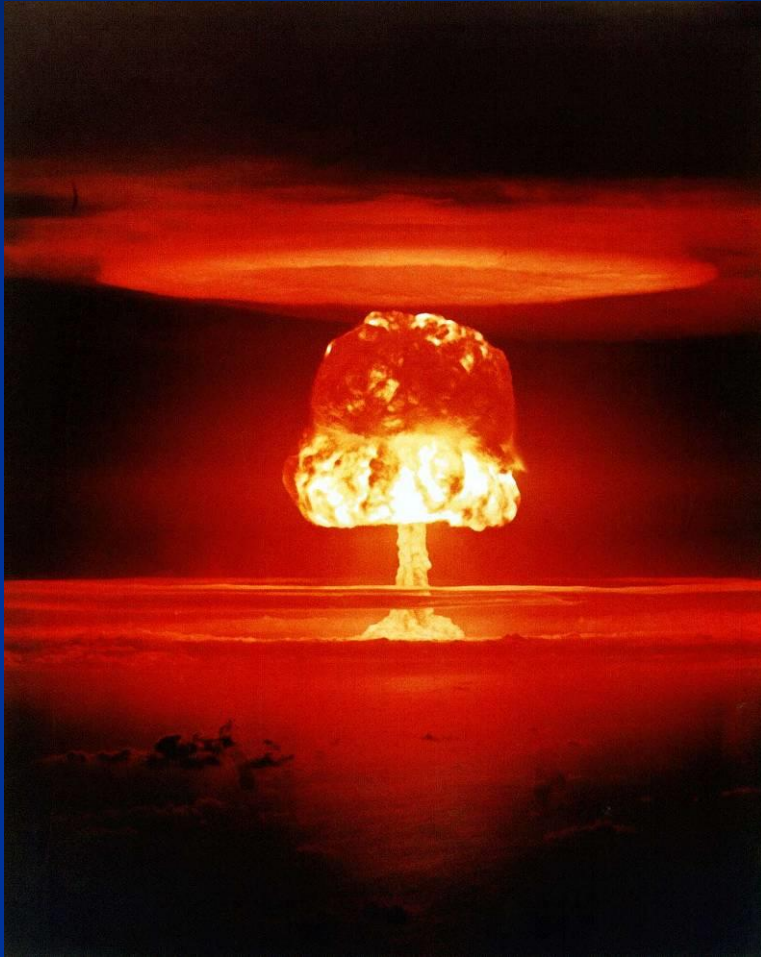
The Pugwash Council



# Central Questions

- What are the divides we need to break down in order to find solutions to problems of continued existence of nuclear weapons?
- What is the role of “track two” dialogue when governments have cut off dialogue? Should we welcome it or be suspicious of it? (Ex – Middle East, South Asia, etc)
- What is the role of independent scientific and technical advice?

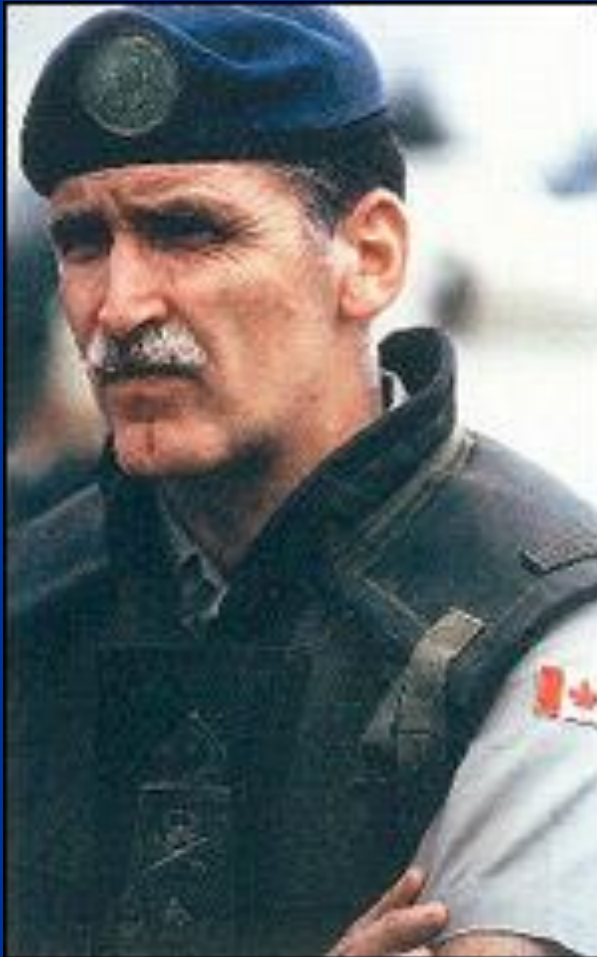
# What it's all about...



A single nuclear weapon can release in one micro-second more energy than all the conventional weapons used in all wars throughout history.

--Canberra Commission

“I have seen genocide by machete. Trust me,  
we shall never survive genocide by nuke.”



--Gen. Romeo Dallaire



# Still too many

## Nuclear Weapons Stockpiles

Country	Total Nuclear Weapons	
Russia	8,500	<a href="#">Full Report</a>
United States	7,700	<a href="#">Full Report</a>
France	300	<a href="#">Full Report</a>
China	250	<a href="#">Full Report</a>
United Kingdom	225	<a href="#">Full Report</a>
Pakistan	120	<a href="#">Full Report</a>
India	110	<a href="#">Full Report</a>
Israel	80	<a href="#">Full Report</a>
North Korea	< 10	
<b>Total Nuclear Weapons</b>		<b>≈ 17,300</b> <a href="#">Full Report</a>

Source: Ploughshares Fund (NRDC/FAS)

# Contemporary issues

- Need to decrease the salience of nuclear weapons
- States with nuclear weapons are obligated to disarm, but going too slowly
- Ex - US nukes out of Europe - establish norm of basing only on national territory Stop proliferation
- Solve outstanding issues peacefully – ex Iranian nuclear issue

# Growing Humanitarian Focus

- Feb 2013 - Norway, meeting on humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons
- Feb 2014 - 146 countries went to Mexico
- Next stop Vienna, to discuss International Human Law and nuclear weapons
- NGOs like ICAN have been essential in this initiative



“We scientists, young and old, must nurture a vision of a better world in the next century, a world without war, a society based on care and equity, a community that will protect the environment. And we should make it our task to turn this vision into reality.” --Joseph Rotblat



# Mentorship Matters





# Student movements

- International Student/Young Pugwash
- Global Zero
- ICAN
- Etc.





The quest for a war-free world has a basic purpose: survival.

But if in the process we learn how to achieve it by love rather than by fear, by kindness rather than by compulsion; if in the process we learn to combine the essential with the enjoyable, the expedient with the benevolent, the practical with the beautiful, this will be an extra incentive to embark on this great task.



Above all, remember your humanity.



[www.pugwash.org](http://www.pugwash.org)  
Pugwash on Facebook  
Twitter: @sibutcher



Thank you!