

# LA Area Nuclear Disarmament Coalition with Global Aims - Sept 30 Follow-up Committee Report

by Roger Eaton

A 12 person follow-up committee for the Sept 6 nuclear disarmament conference met on Sept 30th in Mar Vista and in a harmonious and productive meeting put us on track toward making the LA Area Nuclear Disarmament Coalition a reality.

It is in our grasp to bring this coalition to life, so it is excellent news that we did have a good follow-up meeting. The time is propitious in a couple ways. With Obama we have a candidate who is actually mentioning nuclear disarmament as a national goal, and even the realist wing of the Republicans (and McCain, too) are paying lip service to the idea. Moreover Helen Caldicott is coming on the 12th to Long Beach, and that will give us a great opportunity to talk to people from all the nuclear disarmament groups in the area.

Our assumption is that we need to foster some kind of regular contact amongst formally assigned representatives from each of the participating organizations. We, as the follow-up committee, are separate from the coalition representatives. Our purpose is to create a self-sustaining coalition.

The meeting agenda

- 1) Shall we set the building of a monthly conference call of group representatives as our primary objective?
- 2) How shall we organize ourselves to accomplish the necessary outreach?
- 3) What suggestion(s), if any, shall we make to the group representatives? In this discussion we should have reference to the four themes that came through in the prioritization voting at the conference in both global and local sessions: a) reach out to existing nuclear disarmament organizations; b) fulfill the NPT; c) the importance of influencing American leadership; and d) work through the arts. One person who at the last minute called in unable to attend for family reasons suggested that we stress the importance of making alliances - for instance, with the anti-mine movement.
- 4) How shall we organize our own continuation?
- 5) A fifth item was added to the agenda at the meeting: fund raising.

Meeting results

On the question of the conference call as the backbone of the new coalition, we agreed to organize such a call, but thought that it would take some building up to, so we are aiming at January 2009 or more likely February for the first such call. We will need someone to lead the call, and we need to organize the substance of the call, right down to knowing exactly who is going to speak, on what (possibly with some open discussion as well). For the substance of the call, we thought we would start with the four themes that came out of the prioritization exercise at the conference. Plus in our outreach we would talk to the organizations to get further ideas.

Suggestions for conference call topics included making alliances, continued signature gathering for the NAPF petition, fund raising, including possibly a Nuclear Disarmament Walk in the Aids Walk format, or something similarly participative, though not necessarily a walk. Whether fund-raising would be an appropriate topic for a first conference call was questioned on the grounds that we need a substantive plan before we think about

raising money. We decided that this should be a question in our outreach as we developed topics for the first conference call.

As for the follow-up committee itself, we will hold our next meeting in early December at the same Mar Vista location, tentatively Tuesday, Dec 9, 7:30 to 9:30 pm. The Unity-and-Diversity World Council has offered the follow-up committee a 501(c)(3) haven as an autonomous committee within the UDC framework. Presumably the goal of a continuing follow-up committee would be as a service group for the coalition, giving the conference call participants a group of willing volunteers to call upon. The other possibility is that the follow-up group will play midwife and then disband after a self-sustaining coalition is going. This will be further discussed in the December meeting.

Most importantly, for outreach, we put together a list of organizations that either participated in the September 6th conference, or are supporting the Helen Caldicott presentation in Long Beach on October 12th. For many of the organizations someone volunteered to make contact. In each contact, we will cover three points: That the organization appoint a liaison to the new coalition, someone who will participate in the conference call and report back to the organization.

That the organization supply a short statement of its stand on nuclear disarmament.

Also, we are looking for feedback about the substance of the conference call, with special reference to the four themes, and to the question of the suitability of talking about fund-raising and making alliances. Here is the list of organizations. The asterisk means that has someone from the follow-up committee already volunteered to contact this organization. If you know people in these organizations, whether with an asterisk or without, and if you want to join us in making contact, please email or call me. Ditto if you have the names of other organizations that should be on the list.

- \* American Friends Service Committee
- \* Beyond War
- \* Campus Progressives, CSULB
- \* Fellowship of Reconciliation
- \* Gray Panthers
- Global Voices for Justice
- \* Harry Bridges Institute
- \* Islamic Center of Southern California
- \* Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace
- \* LA Jews for Peace
- Long Beach First Congregational
- \* Long Beach Greens
- \* Military Families Speak Out
- \* Muslims for Progressive Values
- \* Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
- \* Office of the Americas
- Pacific Unitarian Church, RPV
- Peace Action West
- \* Physicians for Social Responsibility, L.A.
- Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
- Progressive Christians Uniting
- \* Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Ethics
- \* Santa Monica MoveOn
- \* Student PSR

\* Unity and Diversity World Council

\* Westside Progressives

To help with the outreach or to add your organization to the list, contact Roger Eaton:  
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