Interview with August Desert Witness Speaker Ted Taylor:

Bomb Pioneer Critical of Subcritical Tests

by Keith Rogers,
Las Vegas Review-Journal

With its $40 billion stockpile stewardship program, the United States is spiraling toward another Cold War that could produce small, fusion bombs without full-scale tests, a former nuclear weapons expert said.

Theodore Taylor, who designed some of the first atomic bombs tested at the Nevada Test Site and who was deputy technology director for the Defense Nuclear Agency in the mid-1960's, has, in his words, "done an about-face."

Instead of backing the government's Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship Program—a 10-year government project to assess reliability of the nation's aging nuclear arsenal—Taylor decries the program that will use high-tech lasers, computers and non-nuclear experiments to simulate nuclear explosions.

While plutonium might not be the main ingredient in these smaller bombs, pure fusion—the joining of atoms to release large amounts of energy—could be accomplished using lithium and heavy hydrogen combined with techniques from these new experiments.

"It would open up a Pandora's box," he said in an interview last week following his arrest at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California where he protested the lab's National Ignition Facility, a giant laser system, under construction, that is part of the $10 billion program.

He said the bombs wouldn't be able to deliver the massive nuclear punch like the atomic bombs he once helped design, but they would be powerful enough to be used by terrorists to blow up a marketplace or building.

Taylor, 72, was the featured speaker at an anti-nuclear conference Saturday in Las Vegas at Christ Church Episcopal.

He was expected to carry his protest further today, joining others from the faith-based Nevada Desert Experience who intend to stage nonviolent, civil (continued on back page)

Dorothy Day's 100th Birthday

A Legacy of Love

November 7, 8, 9, Las Vegas
(See poster inside)

Franciscan Friar David Buer leads a procession of 60 people to the Nevada Nuclear Weapon Test Site gates for August Desert Witness 1997. 27 people committed civil-disobedience by crossing onto the Test Site and were arrested for trespassing. Photo by Steve Marcus/Las Vegas Sun.
August Desert Witness 1997: 60 People Cross the Line at the Nevada Nuclear Weapons Test Site
by Marti Searcy, August Desert Witness 1997 participant from Reno, Nevada

I always cry when I cross the line.
My tears are full of joy
And my heart leaps in my chest
As if it has met a kindred spirit, after a long separation

The day, whether dull and grey
Or bright with a crystalline blue sky and a radiant sun
Seems larger, more vibrant
Filled with possibilities

I dance my walk to the women’s pen
As I chatter with my escort
Attempting to pass this great joy to him
I want to embrace him and invite him to dance

Our steps may not match
but in God’s eyes we will perform a pas de deux
That couple our hearts as the sorrow I feel for this imprisoned space
is transformed into a hippy shake tribal celebration I invite the world to share.

HIROSHIMA HAIKU
Whether or not I listen
ghosts sob on the atomic field.
Taziguchi Seinosuke

Charred beyond recognition yet
the shoes he wears are my boy’s shoes
-Masuda Misako

One side of the face shuns light
August anniversary
-Kushibe Masayuki

An empty shell I walk
Flowers hit my eyes
-Sasaki Isami

Presented by Nevada Desert Experience
Las Vegas Catholic Worker: 500 W. Van Buren Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106, (702) 647-0728 / Nevada Desert Ex...
"We were fascinated by abstract violence on a huge scale. I became addicted to nuclear weapons work. It gave me a sense of great power."

-Dr. Ted Taylor
ADW 97 Speaker

Weaponeer, sat in Washington, D.C., easily the devastation his latest creation. "I remember being disappointed the July 9, 1986. Ted Taylor, nuclear species, Red Square. He "looked around, saw the devastation his latest creation."

-Dr. Ted Taylor wept.

-Mother Jones magazine interview

Come on, dear ones
Put your tender arms around each other
Come now, stand up, won't you?

Dear ones
The time of silence is over!
With your bright eyes
Clear voices and joyful cries
Come on
Join the struggle on this earth
Against patriotic old men

Spreading your arms opened to everybody
Pressing your cheeks to every breast
Let the crystal tears of humanity
Gush forth over the world
Come, dear ones
Run to any and everyone, shouting
We are of Hiroshima
Boys and Girls of Hiroshima!

-Sankichi Toge

Another 'subcritical' underground nuclear weapons test is planned this month (September 1997) at the Nevada Nuclear Weapons Test Site.
UPCOMING NEVADA DESERT EXPERIENCE EVENTS AT THE NUCLEAR TEST SITE:

September, 1997: Planned Nuclear Weapon test (call for details)

November 7, 8 & 9, 1997: A Legacy of Love, Celebrate Dorothy Day’s 100th Birthday, poster inside this issue

April 3, 4, & 5, 1998: Lenten Desert Experience XVII

April 5-10, 1998: Holy Week Walk, Pilgrimage with Brother David Buer from Las Vegas to the Nevada Test Site

April 10, 1998: Good Friday Nuclear Stations of the Cross

April 9, 10 & 11: Retreat with Joanna Macy

December 31, 1999: At midnite as we enter the new millenium we will gather with religious leaders from around the nation and have a candle-lit procession onto the Nevada Nuclear Weapons Test Site.

OTHER GROUPS; TEST SITE EVENTS:

October 10-13, 1997: Call to the Desert Gathering

April 10-13, 1998: Healing Global Wounds Gathering both sponsored by Healing Global Wounds, (408) 338-0147

( Ted Taylor, continued from front page)

disobedience actions at the Mercury entrance to the test site, 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas. (Ted Taylor and 26 others were arrested trespassing onto the test site after an interfaith service.)

Subcritical nuclear experiments, in which high explosives are used to slam bits of plutonium in a detonation that stops short of a nuclear chain reaction, will give scientists an edge on new weapons development even though they are designed to assess assaying of the stockpile, Taylor said.

"They are extremely informative even if they don’t create lots of energy," he said.

Asked if full-scale tests, like those historically conducted at the test site, from 1951 to 1992, would still be required, Taylor said, "We’re reaching a point, and have passed it, where those kinds of nuclear tests are no longer necessary for weapons development.

Full-scale nuclear tests have been put on hold since the last test, Diviner, on Sept. 23, 1992. But Taylor contends subcritical experiments like the one conducted below ground at the test site last month, and another planned for this month can damage the United States’ reputation with other countries that view the experiments as leading to another arms race.

"The thing that disgusts me most, the country is preparing to violate a treaty signed by our president last September. Article I forbids any nuclear explosions of any kind, yet we’re preparing to build the National Ignition Facility. The purpose is to make (nuclear) explosions that don’t use plutonium or uranium at all, he said.

"It was my bomb and my idea, and the thrill of seeing something the size of the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima, it was a cause for celebrating,” Taylor said.

"It’s fair to say I bottomed out, admitting that I was hooked on a process that when carried through the end point was nothing but death, the death of most people in the world," he said.

"It was a full realization that I had been deceiving myself, and my mother and my wife. I had been working on this thing that would kill as many as possible," Taylor said, referring to his decision in 1966 that led to his prominence as an anti-nuclear activist.

Celebrate Dorothy C

A Legacy of Love; Dorothy C

Schedule

Friday, November 7, 1997

8:00 a.m. Check-In (in Hall)
9:00 a.m. Round Table A
10:30 a.m. Break
10:45 a.m. Round Table B
12:15 p.m. Lunch
1:30 p.m. Round Table C
3:00 p.m. Break
3:15 p.m. Round Table D
4:45 p.m. Break
5:00 p.m. Dinner (in Hall)
6:30 p.m. Opening Ceremony (in Church), Anne Symens-Bucher, Larry Holben, Informal Storytelling
9:00 p.m. Social (in Hall)

Saturday, November 8, 1997

(on Saturday please park away from church as there are two Weddings)

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (in Church)
8:00 a.m. Breakfast
9:00 a.m. Mike Davis & Ched Myers
10:00 a.m. Small Group Discussion
10:30 a.m. Break
10:45 a.m. Murphy Davis
11:45 a.m. Small Group Discussion
12:15 p.m. Lunch
1:30 p.m. Round Table E
3:00 p.m. Break
3:15 p.m. Round Table F
4:45 p.m. Break
5:00 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Gathering in Church; Test Site: Faith & Action, Concert
9:00 p.m. Social
Day’s 100th Birthday!

Dorothy Day, 1897-1980

Hall: Why I Left the C.W. Frenzy & How I Coped with the Guilt, Anne Symens-Bucher
Room #1: Dorothy & Non-Violence, Sr. Patricia McCarthy
Room #2: C.W. Printery demonstration, Gary Cavalier
Room #3: Usury, Mario Carota, Peter Steihler & Eric DeBode
Hike: Meet at picnic tables outside Hall for Red Rock hike at 1:30 pm
Round Table F, Sat., 3:15 - 4:45 pm
Hall: Sacred Dance & the Gospel, Carla DeSola
Room #1: C.W. Newspapers; Critique, Discussion & How-To’s, Chuck Trapkus
Room #2: Harm Reduction Workshop, Jim Lively, Fr. River Sims
Room #3: Art & the C.W., Willa Bickham
Chapel: Centering Prayer, Sr. Michelle Fischer
Basketball: meet courtside at 3:15

Sleeping Space
There are many options for lodging but please make arrangements early, so we can prepare. There will be sleeping bag space at local churches and we will have a place for tent set-up also. We also have space in the homes of friends in Las Vegas if you have your own transportation. Please contact us early to make arrangements.

Motels
Sunday, November 9, 1997
Dorothy's 100th Birthday!
7:45 a.m. Leave Las Vegas for Nevada Test Site
9:00 a.m. Service at the Nevada Test Site, Mercury gate
10:00 a.m. Nonviolent Action at Nevada Test Site
12:00 p.m. Picnic at Floyd Lamb State Park, Group Site #3, ($5 fee per car, vouchers available)

Round Table Talks
Round Table A, Fri., 9-10:30 a.m.
Hall: Peter Maurin's Rural Vision, Brian Terrell
Room #1: Micro-Power Community Radio, Marcus Page
Room #2: Christianity & Deep Ecology, Udo Wald
Round Table B, Fri., 10:45-12:15
Hall: Hope & Humor in the Shell of the Old; Fun Actions, Protests & Parties, Bruce Triggs.
Room #1: Computer Technology and the C.W., Chuck Trakhus
Room #2: Presentation on C.W. Archives, Phil Runkel
Round Table C, Fri., 1:30-3:00 pm
Hall: Raising Families in the C.W. movement, Katrina Plato
Room #1: Practical Experiments with Non-Violence, Rich Lombardo
Room #2: Plowshare Round Table, Washington, D.C. Catholic Worker
Room #3: Tensions between Hospitality & Community, Rosalie Riegle
Round Table D, Fri., 3:15-4:45 pm
Hall: Growing Up in the C.W., Maria Montesano, Kate Walsh-Little, Deirdre Cornell
Room #1: Books available on the movement, Paul Magno & Kim Lamberty
Room #2: Icons & Holy Work, Fr. Alain Richard
Room #3: Gay & Catholic; A Justice Issue, Michael Harank
Round Table E, Sat., 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Ten years ago over 400 people came to Las Vegas to Celebrate Dorothy Day's 90th Birthday.
Presenters include:
Mike Davis
Anne Symens-Bucher
Louie Vitale, OFM
Julia Occhiogrosso
Ched Myers
Murphy Davis
Larry Holben
Hennacy House Band
Charlie King

Presented by Nevada Desert Experience
Las Vegas Catholic Worker: 500 W. Van Buren Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106, (702) 647-0728 / Nevada Desert E:
at the Nuclear Weapon Test Site

 Nevada Desert Experience, P.O. Box 4487, Las Vegas, NV 89127

Las Vegas is loaded with lavish Motels, but these two are the closest, simplest and cheapest we could find.
Motel 6, Location #1324, 5085 S. Industrial Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89118, (702) 739-6747. One Adult: Sunday-Thursday, $34, Friday & Saturday, $50. Second Adult $6 (children under 17 free). For reservations call 1-800-4-Motel6.
E-Z Eight Motel, 5201 S. Industrial Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89118, (702) 739-9513. One bed, one or two people, $29. Two beds, two people, $39. Two beds, 3 or 4 people, $44. Each room $10 additional on Friday & Saturday nights (children under 14 free). For reservations call 1-800-32Motel (extension 40).

Transportation

Christ the King Catholic Community, the E-Z 8 Motel, Motel 6 and the airport are all located on Tropicana St. (take the bus West to Christ the King located at Tropicana & Torrey Pines, phone 228-7433 for bus times). At the event we will arrange car pooling to lodging and to the Nevada Test Site.

Meals

Meals will be provided Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Volunteers, Personalists needed to help.

Children

Our goal is to have supervised activities for children throughout the event, please let us know ages of children coming and if you could volunteer to help. Rooms 6 & 7 will have special activities for children during Round Table times.

Area Attractions

There are many scenic natural areas nearby including natural hot springs, information will be available at the registration table.

Ne and the Las Vegas Catholic Worker

P. O. Box 4487, Las Vegas, NV 89127, (702) 646-4814, fax (702) 631-5538, e-mail: nde@igc.apc.org.