

Physicians' contribution to disarmament and weapons control

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

IPPNW History

- Founded in 1980 at height of Cold War by Drs. Bernard Lown of the United States and Evgueni Chazov of the Soviet Union



IPPNW founders and early leaders

- Bridged political divide to educate public about medical consequences of nuclear war

IPPNW History

- Reached millions with message —

There can be no effective medical response to nuclear weapons explosions

Prevention of nuclear war is the only cure



Nagasaki in ruins, August 10, 1945.

For work to educate the public, policy-makers, and media about the effects of nuclear war, IPPNW received the

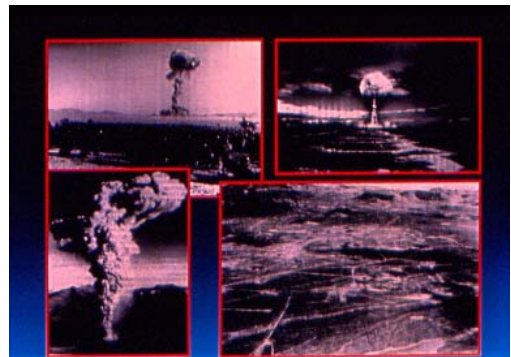
- UNESCO Peace Education Prize in 1984
- Nobel Peace Prize in 1985



IPPNW: Original agenda, only against nuclear weapons

- IPPNW shall be a non-partisan international federation of physicians organisations working to prevent nuclear war by informing about the medical consequences on nuclear weapons

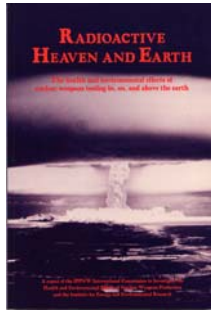
Work to Stop Nuclear Testing



- IPPNW and IEER study projected health effects of some 1,900 nuclear tests conducted from 1945-1991. Findings included:

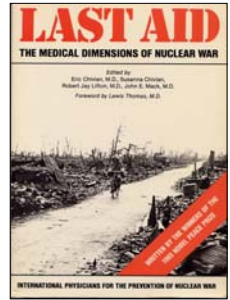
— Radioactive materials would produce 430,000 cancer deaths by year 2000

— Total number of cancer fatalities rises to 2.4 million people when doses are integrated to infinity



- Drawing on research from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, IPPNW begins its work to further document the effects of nuclear war

- *Last Aid*, edited by Dr. Eric Chivian, Susanna Chivian, Dr. Robert J. Lifton, and Dr. John E. Mack, was published in 1982



One Patient with Severe Burns Needs

- Hospital care: 6 weeks
 - Operations: 8-10 times
 - Blood erythrocytes: 6 litres
 - Blood plasma: 5 liters
 - I.V. Salt & sugar solutions: 80 liters
 - Amino & lipid acids: 30-40 liters
 - Antibiotics
 - Dressings
- Number of Hospital Beds for Burn Patients
 - Western Europe: 1,500
 - United States: 2,000

A large nuclear war

- If a large part of the existing nuclear weapons were exploded as planned in a nuclear war between the USA and the Soviet Union:
 - Most people in Europe and North America would be dead within weeks
 - The destruction of society would destroy many more around the world within months

...within a few years

- The combined effects of radiation, destruction of society and **nuclear winter** *may* destroy all mankind, and most land-living mammals.

- Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev credited IPPNW with decision to halt nuclear testing



Drs. Chazov (left) and Lown with President Gorbachev

Politicians can learn

Michail Gorbachev proposed in Jan. 1986 that the USA and Russia should abolish all nuclear weapons before the year 2000. President Ronald Reagan considered the proposal seriously, but...

World Court Opinion 1998

- Use of or threat to use nuclear weapons are generally contrary to international law;
- The nuclear powers are obliged to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament
- *IPPNW had been very active in the campaign to get the World Court involved*

Nuclear weapons convention

- An extensive and detailed draft for a Nuclear Weapons Convention.
- To control and enforce a prohibition against nuclear weapons is much easier than against chemical or, in particular, biological weapons.

IPPNW dialogue with decisionmakers

- Every year in Moscow, London, Paris, Brussels
- Recently in Delhi and Islamabad
- With different methods in Washington.
- *a true and repeated dialogue, a medical perspective, a mutual respect.*

Evaluation of IPPNW recent work to abolish nuclear weapons

- Contact and influence with politicians fairly good in Russia, England, India, Pakistan but less effective in the USA.
- Lobbying at UN: Some effect.
- Educating the general public: Poor

Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project

- An IPPNW student project, developed and run by students.
- Nuclear Weapons were invented by the previous generation. Do we need them?
- Dialogue seminars with students
- Six-eight seminars every year.

Present focus of IPPNW work to prevent nuclear war

- Stop proliferation by strengthening Non-proliferation Treaty
- Nuclear terrorism
- Education in new nuclear countries
- Stop Hair Trigger Alert!
- Understand and cure Nuclear Madness!

Public Opinion in the USA

- The core of the Nuclear Weapon Problem and where the solution must begin.

If the NPT is allow to fail...

- Nuclear weapons will spread to more countries:
- "Limited nuclear wars" are not unlikely;
- Nuclear terrorism is likely.
- **Counterproliferation** will require world control (nuclear weapons in space?)

"Hair trigger alert"

- The President of Russia or of the USA can exterminate mankind by pressing a few buttons..
- False alarms have occurred
- Technical failures
- Mistakes, misunderstandings, megalomania, madness...

No man should have this responsibility

Nuclear Madness: Symptoms

- Technological hubris: No mistakes are made
- The Moral superiority hubris: We are right!
- The Country of Fear
- The Leo Strauss Disciple syndrome

Nuclear madness: Treatment

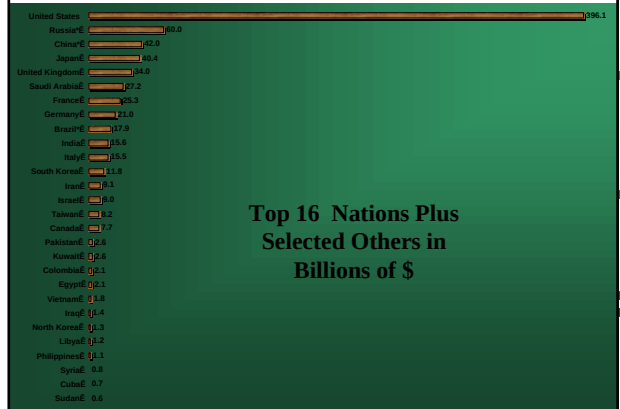
- **Cognitive therapy:** The USA will be much safer, and its superiority unquestioned in a world without nuclear weapons.

Risk of mistakes

The moral argument.

Vocational therapy: Changing by doing.

World Military Spending FY 2003



Deployed (?) nuclear arsenals 2003

	Strategic	Tactical
USA	7,000	1,000
Russia	<5,000	4,000
France	450	60
UK	180	5
Israel	>200	
India	80	
Pakistan	40	
DPRK	2?	

IPPNW: Original agenda, only against nuclear weapons

- IPPNW shall be a non-partisan international federation of physicians organisations working to prevent nuclear war by informing about the medical consequences on nuclear weapons

IPPNW: Agenda since 1991

- IPPNW shall be a non-partisan international federation of physicians organizations dedicated to research, education and advocacy relevant to the prevention of nuclear war. To this end, IPPNW shall seek to prevent all wars, to promote non-violent conflict resolution, and to minimize the effects of war and preparations for war on health, development, and the environment.

IPPNW wider agenda:

- **Peace through Health**
- Small arms
- Landmines
- Violence in society
- Debt relief
- Safer, healthier environment
- No to nuclear power

Small Arms: A Global Health Crisis



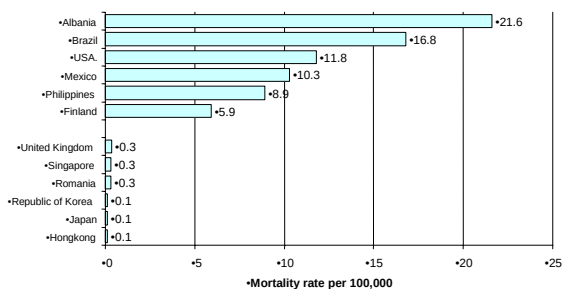
The spread of small arms and light weapons can be likened to a virus

They easily traverse political and economic boundaries

They cause damage to vulnerable populations — particularly to those in economically depressed, politically unstable, and conflict-prone areas

- In wars since 1990, more than 3 million people have been killed by small arms and light weapons — an estimated 35-80% were civilians
- Each year, 300,000 people are killed in armed conflict by small arms and light weapons
- Small arms also claim 200,000 lives each year through homicide, suicide, and accident unrelated to combat

•Small arms-related mortality rates by country



Source: Etienne Krug



Boy injured by shotgun fired at close range



After several rounds of reconstructive surgery



Economic Costs

- Medical treatment of firearms injuries
 - US: Over US \$100 billion per year
 - Mean cost of \$1,700 per injury
- Treatment, legal cost, and lost productivity from firearms injuries
 - Canada: US \$4.7 billion per year
 - \$170 per capita
- Violence costs as percentage of gross domestic product (GDP)
 - Latin America: 14%
 - Brazil: 10%
 - Colombia: 25%

IPPNW Small Arms Program is Aiming for Prevention by

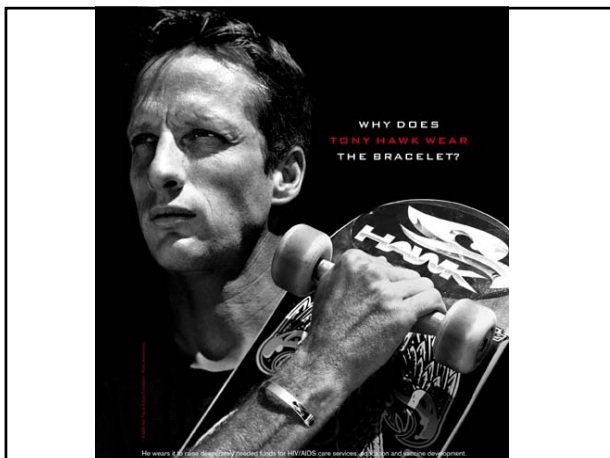
- Developing tools to educate medical professionals and spark their involvement
- Holding workshops in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and former Soviet Union to activate the medical communities most affected
- Conducting pilot research projects in coordination with major health agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO)

What You Can Do

- Accept that this is a medical issue. The continuing deployment of small arms/light weapons constitutes an epidemic of trauma, not merely a political and military prerogative
- Become more informed about small arms by visiting IPPNW's website at www.ippnw.org and IANSA's website at www.iansa.org
- Urge governments to halt the international trade in weapons; sample letters are available on our websites

World Peace Music Award!

- To raise public opinion: Pop musicians!
- To make people care: Give them a chance to do something!



WHY DOES DESTINY'S CHILD WEAR THE BRACELET?

