

weapons already.

Perhaps we might be more effective in preventing proliferation of these weapons were we to try the Strategy of Generosity instead of the strategy of domination. And yes, it is the strategy of domination if the US agrees to negotiations, but meanwhile proclaims 'we will not take ANY OPTION off the table' meaning [the US] may use [its],,, nuclear power to back up an assault on other countries if our negotiations don't give us what we are asking for!

For the full article, see

<http://www.tikkun.org/article.php/20090528105725478>

ACTION

Write / call President Obama and urge him to pursue a strategy of generosity and real negotiations, devoid of domination.

Call: 202-456-1111 or 202-456-1414

FAX: 202-456-2461

Write:

www.whitehouse.gov/CONTACT/

TTY/TDD

Comments: 202-456-6213

Visitors Office: 202-456-2121

2. Other peace leaflets produced by 8th Day Center for Justice are located at www.8thdaycenter.org/resources/leaflet_s.html for your use in schools, peace vigils, etc.

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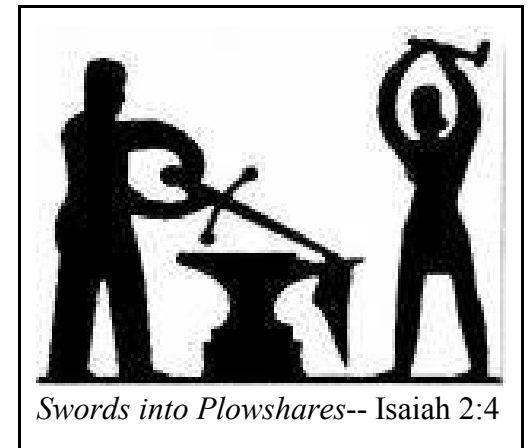


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**SOWING SEEDS
TRANSFORMING TOMORROW**

Local contact:

Maybe We Should Take the North Koreans at Their Word



Swords into Plowshares-- Isaiah 2:4

P y o n g y a n g h a s consistently said that its nuclear weapons are intended to deter aggression. . . . And, indeed, they do.

Shortly after North Korea exploded its second nuclear device in three years [on May 25], it released a statement explaining why.

"The republic has conducted another underground nuclear testing successfully in order to strengthen our defensive nuclear deterrence."

If the Obama Administration hopes to dissuade Pyongyang from the nuclear course it seems so hell bent on pursuing, Washington must understand just how adroitly nuclear arms do appear to serve North Korea's national security. In other words, perhaps we should recognize that they mean what they say.

The "Korean Committee for Solidarity with World Peoples," a mouthpiece for the North Korean government, captured Pyongyang's logic quite plainly just weeks after the American invasion of Iraq in March 2003. **"The Iraqi war taught the lesson that "the security of the nation can be protected only when a country has a physical deterrent force."**

Similarly, a few weeks earlier, just before the Iraq invasion began, a North Korean general was asked to defend his country's nuclear weapons program, and with refreshing candor replied, **"We see what you are getting ready to do with Iraq. And you are not going to do it to us."**

Nuclear Weapons Do Deter the U.S.

It really is quite a remarkable development. North Korea today is one of the most desperate countries in the world. Most of its citizens are either languishing in gulags or chronically starving. And yet - in contrast to all the debate that has taken place in recent years about whether the United States and/or Israel ought to launch a preemptive strike on Iran - **no one seems to be proposing any kind of military strike on North Korea. Why not? Because of the mere possibility that North Korea could impose unacceptable damage upon us in reply.**

Astonishingly, it seems that Washington finds itself every bit as thoroughly deterred by a North Korea with probably fewer than 10 nuclear weapons as it did by a Soviet Union with 10,000.

There is very little reason to suppose that other states will not soon follow their lead.

The one thing we can probably say for sure about the prospects for universal nuclear disarmament is that no state will agree either to abjure or to dismantle nuclear weapons unless it believes that such a course is the best course for its own national security.

To persuade states like North Korea and Iran to climb aboard the train to abolition would probably require simultaneous initiatives on three parallel tracks.

How should we react?

It is hard to know how to react to the pious lecturing of the US media and government to North Korea. The US has thousands of nukes and has them positioned all around the world to enforce the will of the American empire. The US is the only country on earth that has ever used nuclear weapons in war.

What exactly gives the US the moral right to be lecturing North Korea or even Iran on who should or should not have nuclear weapons—except our chutzpah and our military power?

But why does the media also continually speak in this same language of offended righteousness, when it is the US, not North Korea, which has just caused the deaths of over a million Asians in Iraq, the displacement into refugee status of another 3 million, and many more who have been wounded?

This is not to say that anyone [should have the] slightest sympathy for the regimes in North Korea or Iran—but neither do we have much sympathy for other regimes like those in Pakistan or Russia or Israel that have nuclear