



British American Security
Information Council

Annual Activities Report 2010

A summary of BASIC's activities from the Board, for Advisors, Patrons, Donors and Partners

Program Activities

The year 2010 held significant promise for disarmament, and though there has been disappointment in the rate of achievement given the rhetoric that preceded it, there were significant concrete results, some of which have directly involved BASIC. BASIC has used its developing reputation as both a source of reliable information and comment, and as a forum for informed and open-minded analysis to strengthen the international momentum behind nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation – in Washington, New York, London, and in other European capitals.

NATO's nuclear posture

In the context of reviewing its 1999 Strategic Concept, NATO had a unique opportunity to reduce its reliance on nuclear weapons. BASIC focused its activities on the issue of tactical nuclear weapons (TNW) through a series of events and roundtables, publications and extensive media coverage. We engaged people on a topic where knowledge was shallow, reaching out to new and different influential

audiences. We have developed a systematic program to bring key decision-makers and experts together from across Europe to discuss proposals for reducing nuclear dangers, teasing out concerns, coaxing participants into considering alternatives, and mapping a way forward, to get beyond presentation of national positions and to discuss practical ways forward. This has been at a time of maximum possible opportunity for influence on NATO policy, and we played a role in establishing a broader review of deterrence posture for 2011-12.

- Paul Ingram, BASIC Executive Director, took part in a conference in Warsaw (March) on NATO's nuclear deterrence and disarmament, sponsored by the French MoD.
- In April 2010, BASIC co-organized an experts' roundtable in Brussels, 'NATO's future nuclear posture: strengthening non-proliferation and enhancing European security'. Questions centered on the current role of forward-deployed nuclear forces and whether NATO could sustain its Article V

commitments in their absence; the degree to which nuclear sharing enables NATO's non-nuclear allies to influence the Alliance's nuclear posture; and the opportunities NATO has to advance non-proliferation.

- BASIC held a highly successful panel event on NATO's nuclear policy at the NPT Review Conference in May, attended by 60 delegates and NGO observers. The panel featured Paul Ingram, Dr. Trevor McCrisken, BASIC Chair, and Amb. Jim Goodby alongside Hans Kristensen of the Federation of American Scientists and Nickolas Roth, program director of the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability.
- Also, during the RevCon we hosted European NGOs for a strategy session at which we compared notes and decided to issue a joint appeal on tactical nuclear weapons, addressed to NPT delegates titled 'Now is the time for action on tactical nuclear weapons'. The statement set out five concrete steps that NPT states should take toward removing these weapons.
- In collaboration with the Arms Control Association (ACA), the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy Hamburg (IFSH) and Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), BASIC organized a roundtable on 'Credible Deterrence for NATO in the XXI' in Warsaw in July 5.
- BASIC co-sponsored a workshop in Ankara in collaboration with USAK, ACA and IFSH on NATO's nuclear posture. A summary of the meeting is available at: <http://www.usak.org.tr/EN/haber.asp?id=467>.

One of the sessions was chaired by BASIC's Research Director Dr. Ian Kearns, and Paul Ingram, Executive Director, presented a paper entitled 'Reducing reliance on nuclear weapons: Options for the new Strategic Concept and beyond'. The following day we organized a delegation to Parliament, and the Defense and Foreign Ministries. Turkey, a host of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons (TNWs), plays an important role in the debate over the future of deployed nuclear weapons in Europe, and this seminar and delegation initiated an important process that could encourage the Turks to play an active and positive role in this debate.

- Finally, in collaboration with NATO Watch, Bertelsmann Stiftung and ISIS Europe we co-organized the NATO Shadow Summit II covering a variety of issues including a session titled 'The Future of NATO nuclear sharing and the Phased Adaptive Approach to missile defence: Linked or separate Strategic concerns?'

Publications

Joint BASIC and ACA press release on NATO's Experts Group report in May.

BASIC published a number of briefings on the issue (see: <http://www.basicint.org/issues/projects/2011/natos-nuclear-posture>) including one based upon BASIC evidence given to the NATO group of experts in December 2009: <http://www.basicint.org/mind-the-gap> and on the consequences of the U.S. Nuclear Posture Review for TNWs assigned to NATO, in April 2010: <http://www.basicint.org/considering-natos-tactical-nuclear-weapons>



Ming Campbell, Ellen Tauscher, Baroness Shirley Williams, Brian Eno, Des Browne and other guests at BASIC's Visions for a New Century, Feb. 1.

Towards a Middle East WMD-Free Zone

Partly funded by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, this project is led by Anne Penketh, BASIC's Washington Program Director, and focused on an international conference in 2012 and diplomacy surrounding nuclear programs in the Middle East, with an approach that acknowledges the resolution to the crisis over Iran's nuclear program can only be reached if the security concerns of both Iran and Israel, and other countries in the region, are addressed together in a way that avoids perceptions of double-standards.

Anne has been holding regular consultations in Washington and London with senior U.S. officials involved in conference preparations and with Egyptian diplomats. Consultants Nima Khorrami Assl and Nadeem Hamid carried out background research in Arabic and Farsi sources on the WMD-free zone. Anne also attended an event on prospects for the WMD-free zone in the Middle East at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, while lining up panelists for a Track II workshop in Malta later in 2011 – including Israeli

and Iranian experts as well as leading U.S. and European experts. She delivered a speech to the International Security Forum in Cairo (see below) promoting the 2012 conference and summarizing progress so far.

Publications

'Peeling the Onion: Towards a Middle East nuclear weapons free zone', Anne Penketh, BASIC Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference 2010 Papers - 1, March 18, 2010.

'Non-Proliferation requires disarmament and vice versa: Advice to the Iranian Government as it seeks to challenge the nuclear order at the NPT Review Conference', Paul Ingram, BASIC Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference 2010 Papers-3, April 3, 2010.

'Snap Analysis - Can Middle East WMD-free zone talks happen?' Anne Penketh, May 29, 2010.

'Promoting the 2012 conference on a WMD-free zone in the Middle East', Cairo nuclear forum: Anne Penketh speech, October 19, 2010.



Peter Gabriel with Trevor McCrisken and Vanessa Branson at Visions for a New Century, Feb. 1.

BASIC work on Trident

BASIC continued its regular consultations with officials and politicians on issues surrounding Trident throughout 2010, activities alongside others that helped ensure that Trident replacement became a significant election issue in April.

BASIC held a roundtable on Trident renewal in October 2010 in Parliament, in collaboration with the Top Level Group. The roundtable brought together the analytical community with senior political figures for a focused discussion on issues surrounding British nuclear policy. Top Level Group members, BASIC experts, policymakers, academics, members of the scientific community, informed journalists and others came together to explore the issues and their relationship to the United Kingdom's international role and its wider capabilities and defense budgets. The report of the roundtable is available at: <http://www.basicint.org/basic-tlg-roundtable-trident-renewal>. Under the direction of Dr. Ian Kearns, BASIC Research Director, we have set up the BASIC Trident Commission, an independent, cross-party commission to examine the United Kingdom's nuclear weapons policy and the issue of Trident renewal. The Commission operates under the chairmanship of Lord Browne of Ladyton, former Labour Secretary of State for Defence, Sir Malcolm Rifkind, former Conservative Defence and Foreign Secretary, and Sir Menzies Campbell, former leader of the Liberal Democrats and Shadow Foreign Secretary. Other members include Professor Alyson Bailes, Lord Guthrie of Craigebank, Lord Rees of Ludlow, Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield and Sir Jeremy Greenstock.

NPT RevCon Related Activities

BASIC had a presence throughout the whole of May at the NPT Review Conference, with extraordinary access to negotiators and officials, enabling us to input into talks and strengthen our networks for future activities, particularly on the Middle East and NATO work. We contributed as panel members on separate events covering NATO, the United Kingdom and the Middle East, and were quoted in a number of media reports from the event. BASIC was one of the few NGOs well in advance of the meeting to single out the Middle East resolution as the critical issue that risked wrecking the Review Conference (see Anne Penketh, 'Peeling the Onion: Toward a Middle East Nuclear Free Zone'). Staff members had meetings prior to and at the RevCon with senior diplomats. Two weeks prior to the RevCon Ambassador Susan Burk, the chief U.S. negotiator at the NPT, had a private lunch at the Cosmos Club with BASIC Board members and staff for an exchange of views. Immediately prior to the Review Conference BASIC published four briefings (see below) sent to key negotiators and officials targeting the critical issues facing delegates as they gathered in New York.

BASIC was well represented in the second week of the NPT Review Conference by Trevor, Paul, Anne, Analyst Chris Lindborg and BASIC Board Member Amb. Jim Goodby. Jim was on panels at two events: in New York on ratification prospects for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and in Washington on opportunities stemming from the U.S. Nuclear Posture Review. This latter event, covering the range of issues from New START to the NPT Review Conference to the U.S. Nuclear Posture Review and prospects for CTBT ratification, was chaired by BASIC Board Member Amb. Bob Barry and addressed by Joe Cirincione,

President of the Ploughshares Fund and Ambassador Steve Pifer, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. Anne Penketh was a panelist with Rebecca Johnson (Acronym) and Sharon Dolev (Greenpeace) at an event on the Middle East WMD-free zone, which attracted about 60 people, including negotiators. She also spoke on the same issues on a panel hosted by Greenpeace.

Briefings

'Keeping the 'Non' in the Non-Nuclear Weapon States', Chris Lindborg, April.

'Nuclear Options for NATO', Paul Ingram, April.

'Non-Proliferation requires disarmament and vice versa: Advice to the Iranian Government as it seeks to challenge the nuclear order at the NPT Review Conference', Paul Ingram, April.

'Treading Water in 2010: The Nuclear Weapon States and Nuclear Disarmament' (PDF), Chris Lindborg and Nicholas Meros, April.

Other Related Publications by Anne Penketh:

Splits emerge over call for strengthened nuclear inspections, May 3.

Nuclear Weapon States reaffirm responsibility toward disarmament, May 4.

Lines drawn at NPT Review Conference, May 13.

Disarmament timeline could be deal-breaker, May 19.

Promoting the vision to 'validators'

Brian Eno, the critically-acclaimed musician and producer who has served as a BASIC Board Member and Adviser, has continued expanding BASIC's network. BASIC and Brian have been collaborating in arranging events and communication with this network for four years, centered around the immediate opportunities presented to further the vision of global nuclear disarmament.

In collaboration with the Ploughshares Fund, Brian and BASIC hosted a seminal event, *Visions for a New Century*, on February 1, 2010 to broaden support for nuclear disarmament. Brian's studio was filled with an eclectic collection of musicians, artists, business people, senior politicians, officials, philanthropists, actors and writers. This led to a Declaration of support for global disarmament, which BASIC sent to the White House and Downing Street.



Brian Eno with Baroness Williams on Feb. 1.

Elizabeth Kinder, BASIC Board Member, and Laura Spagnuolo, Research and Policy Officer, produced a compilation of interviews taken on the night. Interviewees include Brian, Peter Gabriel, Rory

Bremner, Baroness Williams, Joe Cirincione, Des Browne, Menzies Campbell and others, and testify to the importance of multilateral nuclear disarmament and the role that BASIC can play in this process. The film is now available on the Web at: <http://www.basicint.org/news/2011/visions-new-century> and YouTube.



Anne Penketh and Menzies Campbell on Feb. 1.

On March 15, Brian gave an impassioned speech on his reasons for supporting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation at the event 5x15, attended by BASIC Patrons including Vanessa Branson, William Sieghart, Stephen Friars and emerging musician Seb Rocheford.

BASIC Patron Rory Bremner, on tour before the election, was joined on stage in Oxford by Brian Eno, to speak extensively about BASIC's role in the nuclear disarmament agenda.

Finally, Brian led a discussion on May 16 at the Brighton Festival, entitled 'This is Reasons for Optimism', in which Paul Ingram discussed in particular the pragmatic optimism behind the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons.

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Security and Non-Proliferation

BASIC staff member Lorna Richardson is Clerk to the APPG. Meetings held in this period:

- 'Afghanistan', Prof. Michael Clarke (Director, RUSI) and Matt Waldman (Harvard, and formerly Oxfam), Jan. 26.
- 'Prospects for non-proliferation and disarmament in the Obama Administration', Joe Cirincione (Ploughshares Fund), Feb. 1.
- 'Eliminating Nuclear Threats: a Practical Agenda for Global Policymakers', Gareth Evans and Baroness Williams, Feb. 4.
- 'Essential steps for the 2010 NPT Review Conference', Deepti Choubey (Carnegie Endowment), March 11.
- 'Talking to the Taliban', Matt Waldman (Harvard), June 9.
- 'The NPT Review Conference', Dr. Rebecca Johnson (Acronym Institute), June 22.
- U.S. Foreign Policy Challenges' with speaker Prof. R. Nicholas Burns (Harvard), July 14.
- 'Afghanistan – can the international community really help?' Amb. Thomas Pickering (former Undersecretary of State), Nov. 10.
- 'The U.K.-Norway Initiative - verifying the dismantling of nuclear warheads'. Ole Reistad (Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority) and Andreas Persbo (VERTIC), Nov. 23.
- 'Prospects for Nuclear Non-Proliferation beyond 2010. Amb. Susan Burk (U.S. Special Representative), Nov. 30.
- 'China's Future Role in Nuclear Non-Proliferation'. Li Hong (China Arms Control and Disarmament Association), Dec. 1.
- 'Getting to Zero: What Role for the U.K.?' James Acton (Carnegie Endowment), Dec. 8.

Organization and Staffing

BASIC would like to thank Nima Khorrami Assl, Maarten Fonteijn, Charlotte Florance, Ian White, Felix Grenfell Bozek, Raymond Asfour, Nicholas Meros, Christopher Carr, Jinah Roe, Taek-Jin Han, and David Adelman who worked as interns in Washington and London.

Dr. Dominick Jenkins joined BASIC as Policy Consultant late in the year.

BASIC in the Media

BASIC staff have been making regular comment on broadcast media, are quoted in print, and publish their own comment pieces in newspapers and online blogs throughout the year.

Paul Ingram continued to host a unique weekly discussion program on Iranian state-controlled TV, on issues related to global and Middle East security. He has broadcast live at peak time (8:30pm) in Farsi (simultaneous translation), with two repeats over the weekend, since January 2007. In doing so he has been able to facilitate the presentation of a variety of perspectives on strategic issues affecting Iranians.

Anne Penketh maintains a foreign policy blog on *The Hill* newspaper which contributes to raising BASIC's profile in Washington.

BASIC Website



A comprehensive list of BASIC in the Media, selected articles and publications are available on the website. The following is just a selection:

Selected BASIC in the media articles:

<http://www.basicint.org/news/basic>

'Edging towards a nuclear-free world', Anne Penketh, *The Independent*, April 4.

'It's a no-brainer: ratify the arms control treaty', Anne Penketh, *The Hill's Congress Blog*, Aug. 12.

'Scott Brown and the bombs in the basement', Anne Penketh, *The Hill's Congress Blog*, Sept. 6.

Selected Publications:

<http://www.basicint.org/issues/publications>

'Mind the Gap: healing the NATO rift over U.S. tactical nuclear weapons in Europe', Paul Ingram, Executive Director, Anne Penketh, Program Director, Jan. 1.

'Nuclear Security after the Washington Summit', Dr. Ian Kearns, Research Director, Sept. 22.

'A Progressive Nuclear Policy: Rethinking Continuous-at-sea deterrence', Dr. Nick Ritchie and Paul Ingram, Sept. 22.

'Options to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in NATO', Amb. Peter Gottwald, Nov.

'Polish and Central European Priorities on NATO's Future Nuclear Policy', Lukasz Kulesa, Nov.

'Current NATO Nuclear Policy', Des Browne, Nov.

Other Meetings

BASIC staff and Board organized or attended many events in 2010, including:

- On November 9 in Washington, DC, a senior Obama Administration official, Robert Einhorn, was the keynote speaker before a panel discussion of distinguished experts at an off-the record breakfast on “Iran: sanctions and beyond”. Einhorn is the State Department’s special adviser for non-proliferation and arms control. The panelists were Paul Ingram, Dr. Avner Cohen of the James Martin Center and Dr. Jim Walsh from MIT. The event was moderated by Board Member Amb. Bob Barry and attended by about 40 policy-makers, diplomats, Congressional staffers and Administration staff.
- On May 6 in Washington DC, Board members Dr. Trevor McCrisken and Dr. Joanna Spear spoke on a BASIC panel event co-hosted with SAIS, to discuss the results of the U.K. elections and their consequences for transatlantic relations. Other panelists included SAIS adjunct professor of European studies, Dr. Klaus Larres; SAIS acting manager of the Center for Transatlantic Relations, Kurt Volker, and Paul Ingram.

A summary of the event is available: <http://www.basicint.org/news/events/2010/british-election-what-happened-and-what-does-it-mean>

- Paul Ingram gave a presentation on the future of nuclear deterrence, the NPT, Iran and the possibilities of break-through for global disarmament to the annual Association of European Journalists conference in Toledo,

Spain, June 12-14. The following week he presented the first paper to a conference on trust, empathy and dialogue at Aberystwyth University on a systemic adaptive leadership approach to the nuclear diplomatic conflict between the United States and Iran, and received a very positive reception.

- Paul Ingram facilitated one of the sessions at the 4-day Wilton Park conference in December. Wilton Park is one of the three main pre-RevCon conferences for diplomats.
- Paul Ingram had earlier facilitated a session at Wilton Park in July on the theme ‘nuclear salience in decline?’

Email Update Series

BASIC sends out three monthly email newsletters:

- BASIC News;
- Getting To Zero – highlights of events and other news relevant to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation globally;
- Iran – news relevant to the diplomacy around the nuclear program.

BASIC Board

Dr. Trevor McCrisken (Chair), Associate Professor in U.S. foreign policy at the University of Warwick.

Amb. Robert Barry, former U.S. Ambassador to Bulgaria and Indonesia, Head OSCE Mission in Bosnia (1998-2001).

Dr. Andrew Cottey, Jean Monnet Chair in European Political Integration, Cork University.

Amb. Jonathan Dean, former U.S. Ambassador to the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction Talks.

Amb. James Goodby, former arms control diplomat, also with Brookings, Hoover and MIT.

Brian Eno, musician, artist and producer.

William D. Hartung, Director of the Arms and Security Initiative at the New America Foundation.

Susan Kincade (Treasurer), financial consultant.

Elizabeth Kinder, musician, documentary maker and feature writer.

Amb. James Leonard, former U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament.

Dr. Daniel N. Nelson, President of Global Concepts and Communications, Washington DC.

Prof. James O'Connell, founder and former head of the Bradford University's School of Peace Studies.

Sima Osdoby (Secretary), consultant on democratic institutions, civil society and civic engagement.

Malcolm Savidge, former British MP.

Prof. Joanna Spear, Director, Security Policy Studies Program, Elliott School, George Washington University.