



British American Security Information Council

Activities Report

October - December 2007

An Update for BASIC Council, Advisors, Patrons, Donors and Partners

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Organisation, Staffing and Fundraising

[The Ploughshares Fund](#) has awarded BASIC \$165,000 to support BASIC's agenda of nuclear non-proliferation and transatlantic security. Also, we received an anonymous individual donation of £500 in October.

BASIC has taken on a new Chair, a new Co-Executive Director in its London office, and a new Advisor to the Board. The November Board meeting confirmed Dr. Trevor McCrisken as the new Chair of BASIC. He is Associate Professor in American Politics and International Studies at the University of Warwick. His research interest is US foreign policy with particular emphasis on the threat and use of military force, the politics of intervention, and the relationship between American political culture and foreign policy. He is an Associate Fellow of the Rothermere American Institute at the University of Oxford where he was a Research Fellow from 2001-2003. Trevor takes over from Prof. James O'Connell, a founding member of the Board since 1987, and Chair of the Board for much of that time. James will remain on the Board and we thank him for his tireless service to BASIC over these last twenty years. Also, Trefor Williams has stepped down from the Board to devote more time to his work with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Paul Ingram is the new Co-Executive Director in BASIC's London office. He had been Senior Analyst with BASIC for five years, leading on initiatives around defence economics and export promotion, the replacement of the United Kingdom's Trident submarines, and Iran's nuclear programme. He has had a number of successes linked to this work, related to the British Government's decision to close the Defence Export Services Organisation, reduce support for

the Export Credit Guarantees Department, and the debate in Parliament and elsewhere on delaying the Trident submarine replacement programme. Paul regularly appears on television as an analyst commenting on diverse security and defence issues, and has his own peak-time talk show on the principal domestic news channel in Iran covering issues relating to security in the Middle East.

Former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger has joined the BASIC Advisory Board. Ambassador Eagleburger's career spanned more than 25 years at the US State Department. He held virtually every senior position in the Department dealing with national security issues - Assistant Secretary for European Affairs, Deputy Undersecretary for Management and Under Secretary for Political Affairs. In addition he was an Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs and a member of the National Security Council staff. Also joining our BASIC Advisory Board is Camilla Bustani, a London-based lawyer specialising in international communications regulation at Ofcom, previously at Clifford Chance. Camilla is on the Board of the OpenDemocracy Foundation and has published on a variety of international issues. She is a Brazilian citizen, and lives with her husband and two children in north London.

Ian Davis stepped down as Co-Executive Director of the London office in December after a period of over six successful years as our Director. During this time he has steered the organisation in new directions, raised its profile in a number of areas, and has achieved several breakthroughs. He is moving into consultancy work in the field. David Isenberg is also moving on after working with BASIC as a Senior Analyst for five years. David has been prolific in both broadcast and print media. In addition to his work on such issues as conventional arms sales, biological weapons, Iraq, Iran, intelligence, and general military issues, he carved out a niche while at BASIC as a world expert on private military companies. He is currently writing a book on the subject and working as a consultant in the field. We wish Ian and David the best of luck and thank them both for their long and productive service.

Programme Activities (October - December 2007)

'Getting to Zero'

Launch and groundwork

BASIC officially launched the 'Getting to Zero' (GTZ) project at a breakfast meeting at the Cosmos Club in Washington on 6 November, also marking our 20th Anniversary. We held a [panel discussion](#) on the significance of the now famous *Wall Street Journal* op-ed by US statesmen Shultz, Perry, Kissinger, and Nunn, who have urged the world to take urgent steps to realise the vision of a world without nuclear weapons. During the panel discussion former MP Malcolm Savidge, Ambassador James Leonard, Ambassador Robert Barry, and Paul Ingram evaluated the prospects and necessary steps for reducing nuclear weapons arsenals and the measures needed to prevent the further proliferation of these weapons.

The event was followed up by a day of meetings on Capitol Hill to raise awareness about GTZ-related issues. Meetings were held with Congressmen Ed Royce, Gene Greene, and John Boozman, and staff members from the offices of Senators Robert Casey and Jim DeMint. Congressman Boozman asked for further briefings on GTZ and offered to host meetings in the Capitol on the subject. We are now actively seeking to recruit a British All-Party Parliamentary delegation, as well as a number of key advisers to the project.

In December BASIC organised a joint roundtable with the Royal United Services Institute in Whitehall on moves needed to achieve global nuclear disarmament ('Revitalising the Non-Proliferation Regime'). The event was chaired by Michael Clarke, Director of RUSI and involved Professor Frank von Hippel, Major-General Pan Zhenqiang, Ambassador Dr. Miguel

Marin-Bosch, Professor Jack Mendelsohn, participants from the Foreign Office, the Royal Society and RUSI.

BASIC Board Member and iconic musician Brian Eno was invited to open a debate on BBC Radio's flagship programme, *Today*, focusing on Britain's role in promoting global disarmament by not renewing the Trident system. His three-minutes was responded to by James Arbuthnot MP, Chair of the Commons Defence Select Committee. The programme was broadcast on 31 December 2007, and the piece is available [online](#). BASIC Board Member Ambassador Robert Barry published a piece on the *Guardian* newspaper's website in response to the latest *Wall Street Journal* article calling for renewed commitment to the vision of a nuclear weapon free world and the steps towards it, available [online](#).

BASIC now regularly sends out an e-news [Getting to Zero Update](#), covering developments relevant to nuclear nonproliferation and the reduction of existing nuclear stockpiles. For more information on GTZ, please visit: <http://www.basicint.org/nuclear/index.htm>

Trident

BASIC published the report by Professor Paul Dunne, Dr. Samuel Perlo-Freeman and Paul Ingram on 7 October, outlining the annual opportunity cost to the British government of replacing Trident with new submarines and warheads, and the construction of two new planned carriers. The report, [The real cost behind Trident Replacement and the Carriers](#), estimated this to be £5bn, or 40% of the defence equipment budget, every year for the lifetime of the vessels, a cost unjustifiable at a time of tightening public budgets. Both projects have been the subject of considerable controversy, and BASIC is planning to follow up with further work in 2008 as funding pressures build upon the UK defence procurement budget.

For two decades BASIC has been a strong and steady voice for transatlantic security cooperation based on international law and a world free of the nuclear threat. Our work today is more important than ever.

Please consider a donation today: <http://www.basicint.org/donations/index.htm>

Anthropology 101 wins prestigious Activist award in Hollywood



The short-film 'Anthropology 101' picked up the [Activist Award](#) for 'Best Short - Environmental Preservation' in Hollywood on 11 November 2007. For further information and to view a clip of the film, [click here](#). To order copies of the DVD in the United States please download this [order form](#). To order copies in UK/Europe please contact: WMD Awareness Programme at <http://www.comeclean.org.uk>.

Iran's Nuclear Programme

BASIC continues to promote informed debate on Iran's nuclear programme and its wider geopolitical context. We are also the only Western NGO to be regularly addressing an Iranian audience on international security issues through Iranian TV. BASIC Co-Executive Director in London, Paul Ingram, hosts a weekly 45-minute discussion on issues of global and regional security on Iran's domestic terrestrial TV news station, IRINN. The programme is broadcast live and uncensored with simultaneous translation. BASIC also produces a widely-read bi-weekly [email news update](#) covering issues related to Iran's nuclear programme.

Shortly after the release of the unclassified US National Intelligence Estimate on Iran's nuclear

programme, Shervin Bolorian analysed policy considerations that may have influenced Iran's decision to apparently forego the pursuit of a nuclear weapons program in 2003. His analysis may be found in the *BASIC Note: [Updated NIE Implies Constructive Pragmatism in Iran](#)*. He concludes that the "NIE implies that the current adversarial approach to Iran has not made enough of an impact on Iran's decision-making calculus for the Iranians to change their behavior."

Transatlantic Security Issues

Counter-Terrorism

In Washington on 18 October, Board Member Ambassador James Leonard hosted a meeting with Prof. Barry Kellman of DePaul University Law School to discuss the threats from biological weapons. Prof. Kellman also discussed his new comprehensive book on the subject (*[Bioviolence](#)*). The roundtable was attended by researchers working in the United States. BASIC then hosted a similar breakfast in London a week later on 24 October for UK-based researchers.

NATO - Afghanistan

BASIC sent a 20-page [submission](#) to the UK Defence Committee for an inquiry into 'The Future of NATO and European Defence' on 3 December. The report covered NATO's challenges in Afghanistan, the Comprehensive Political Guidance, missile defence, and nuclear weapons. The submission also proposed goals that NATO leaders should consider, including reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in Alliance strategic doctrine. BASIC continued to produce the [Afghanistan Update](#) and emailed it to a growing list of subscribers.

UK-US Relations

BASIC and Saferworld jointly submitted to the Defence Committee Inquiry on 'The UK-US Defence Trade Cooperation Treaty', on 15 November. The Defence Trade Cooperation Treaty is an initiative to reduce the barriers to trade between the two countries, allowing exceptions to licensing and monitoring procedures. The submission was the only one to come from non-aerospace, non-governmental organisations, and the [Committee Report](#), which was published on 4 December, cited the BASIC- Saferworld submission several times. However, the Committee was generally strongly in favour of the Treaty, in spite of the reservations expressed in the submission. The Committee Report did agree with some concerns raised in the submission, stipulating that, "In order to ensure that the Treaty is in accordance with UK export control policy, the UK Government should restrict any open or general licences it issues, to meet the requirements of the Treaty, to exclude the re-export or transfer from the US of UK goods and technology to third countries other than to US or UK forces".

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

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Security and Non-Proliferation held three meetings in Westminster between October and December 2007.

- **Confronting the Threat of BioViolence**, with speaker Professor Barry Kellman, DePaul University College of Law, Chicago, 5 December 2007.
- **The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy**, with speakers John J. Mearsheimer, Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago, and Stephen M. Walt, Professor of International Affairs at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 7 November 2007.
- **Near Earth Objects: is NASA getting it right?** with speaker Rusty Schweickart, Apollo 9 Astronaut and Chair of the B612 Foundation, 25 October 2007.

BASIC in the News

Broadcast Interviews

IRINN (Iranian News Channel) - 45 Minutes

Paul Ingram, BASIC Co-Executive Director, hosts a weekly discussion programme with two guests, on issues related to global and Middle East security, broadcast live at peak time (8.40pm) in Farsi (simultaneous translation).

Al Jazeera

Paul Ingram commenting on Putin's visit to Iran to discuss nuclear issues, 15 October 2007.

David Isenberg on PMCs in Iraq, 8 October 2007.

David Isenberg on the FBI investigation into Blackwater and Rep. Price legislation on MEJA, 4 October 2007.

David Isenberg on the congressional hearing on Blackwater, 2 October 2007.

BBC Radio 4 Today Programme

Brian Eno on the need for the United Kingdom to take the lead in multilateral disarmament by not renewing the Trident system, 31 December 2007.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/today/listenagain/ram/today3_eno_20071227.ram

BBC Radio Scotland

Paul Ingram on Gordon Brown's approach to national security in the light of his forthcoming Mansion House speech, 11 November 2007.

Press TV

Paul Ingram on a panel of four discussing 'Is the international policing of nuclear weapons fair?' 25 November 2007.

<http://www.presstv.ir/pop/wmp.aspx?id=32646>

Paul Ingram commenting on the current counter-insurgency activities in Iraq after a decisive strike by US forces, 12 October 2007.

Radio Dublin

Paul Ingram commenting on Putin's visit to Iran and relations with the West, 15 October 2007.

Articles, op-eds, quotes and citations in print and on-line media

CNSNews.com

Ian Davis cited in article, 'British Lawmakers Want Debate Over Missile Defence Cooperation', by Kevin McCandless, 27 November 2007.

<http://www.cnsnews.com/ViewNation.asp?Page=/Nation/archive/200711/NAT20071127b.html>

The Guardian

Ian Davis, letter: 'Trident crowds out defence spending', 5 December 2007.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/letters/story/0,,2221862,00.html>

Partnership for a Secure America

David Isenberg, 10 blog entries during October to December 2007.

<http://blog.psaonline.org/author/david/>

Sunday Herald

Ian Davis cited in article, 'Salmond: help us get rid of Trident', 20 October 2007.
http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.1775313.0.salmond_help_us_get_rid_of_trident.php

Publications, Meetings and Submissions

BASIC Email Updates Series

- *Afghanistan Updates* (published on 12 and 19 October, 2 and 16 November, 3 and 21 December). <http://www.basicint.org/update/afg.htm>
- *Biological Weapons Updates* (final update published 3 January).
<http://www.basicint.org/update/bwu.htm>
- *Iran Updates* (published on 3 and 17 October, 2, 13 and 21 November).
<http://www.basicint.org/update/iran.htm>
- *Washington Nuclear Updates* (published in October and November, changed its name to *Getting to Zero* update).
<http://www.basicint.org/update/wnu.htm>

BASIC Papers

Updated NIE Implies Constructive Pragmatism in Tehran, by Shervin Bolorian, BASIC Notes, 7 December 2007.
<http://www.basicint.org/pubs/Notes/BN071207.htm>

As public spending belts tighten, costly dreams of force projection are protected, BASIC Media Advisory, 7 October 2007.
<http://www.basicint.org/pubs/Press/071008.htm>

The Real Cost Behind Trident Replacement and the Carriers, by Paul Dunne, Samuel Perlo-Freeman, and Paul Ingram, BASIC, October 2007.
<http://www.basicint.org/nuclear/beyondtrident/cost.pdf>

BASIC Events

'Revitalising the Non-Proliferation Regime'. Joint BASIC-RUSI international roundtable, 6 December 2007 in Whitehall.

'Working Towards a Nuclear Weapon-Free World', Breakfast Discussion at the Cosmos Club, Washington, DC, 6 November 2007.
<http://www.basicint.org/nuclear/6Nov2007event.htm>

Bioterror roundtable with Prof. Barry Kellman, 18 October 2007, Washington, DC and 24 October 2007, London.

Submissions

BASIC Submission to the Defence Committee Inquiry, 'The Future of NATO and European Defence', Ian Davis and Chris Lindborg, 3 December 2007.
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmdfence/memo/nato/uc1402.htm>

Joint BASIC-Saferworld submission to the Defence Committee Inquiry, 'The UK-US Defence Trade Cooperation Treaty', Ian Davis and Jessica Smith (BASIC), Helen Close and Roy Isbister (Saferworld). It also benefited greatly from advice and contributions from two

colleagues in Washington, DC: Matt Schroeder (Federation of American Scientists) and Rachel Stohl (Center for Defense Information), 15 November 2007.

Conferences and Presentations

FCO-Wilton Park conference: 'Nuclear Non-Proliferation: How Can The Goals Be Achieved?' Paul Ingram (rapporteur for two working groups), 17-21 December 2007.

BWPP Board meeting, Ian Davis hands over the Chair in Geneva on 12 December 2007.

Oxford Research Group Symposium at the Royal Society on 'Nuclear Futures - Realities and Choices', 5 December 2007.

'The Future of UK Arms Exports after the closure of DESO', presentation by Paul Ingram at the CAAT AGM, 24 November 2007.

'The Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI): An effective response to WMD threats?', presentation by Ian Davis at a workshop on 'The Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and International Humanitarian Law - Current Challenges, Effective Responses', International Institute of Humanitarian Law, Villa, Ormond, Sanremo, Italy, 16 November 2007.

Celebration of Anita Roddick's life at Westminster Central Hall, Ian Davis and Paul Ingram, 23 October 2007.

'The Future of British Defence Policy', Ian Davis at the UK Defence Academy at Shrivenham, 12-13 October 2007.

'Forum on Civil Society & Outer Space - Where do we stand on using outer space for peaceful purposes?' Ian Davis in Vienna, 8-9 October 2007.

Correction: In BASIC's last Activities Report (July-September 2007), the sponsor of the study of the UN counter-terrorism apparatus was incorrectly identified. This six-month study was sponsored by the International Peace Academy (IPA) in conjunction with the Center on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation. The resulting report was released in October: **The UN Security Council's Counterterrorism Program: What Lies Ahead?**, by Eric Rosand, Alistair Millar and Jason Ipe, http://www.globalct.org/pdf/UN_Security_Council_Counter-Terrorism_Program.PDF

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