

## The AAAS Contingent: Avoiding Conflict Overseas

When Ukraine declared independence from the former Soviet Union, the new government agreed to dismantle hundreds of Soviet nuclear weapons planted on Ukrainian soil. Despite this display of goodwill, the debate to eliminate the remaining 176 strategic missiles—which are directed at the U.S.—continues.

Although Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has agreed to abolish the weapons, the Ukrainian Parliament has not yet ratified the agreement.

Under the AAAS Directorate for International Programs, the Program on Science and International Security has taken an active role in addressing the future of the Ukrainian missiles. This month, AAAS Science and International Security Program Director Tom Wander and Program Coordinator Elizabeth Kirk traveled to Ukraine with a cadre of U.S. governmental and nongovernmental experts to discuss topics including nuclear disarmament and arms control policy.

The U.S. contingent conducted a 5-day seminar in Kiev, Ukraine, in mid-September. The symposium, the third sponsored by AAAS in Ukraine, provided more than 30 individuals with technical and policy information

on dismantling their nuclear stockpile.

"One of our primary goals in Kiev was to provide sound and balanced information to government officials and members of the scientific community," said Kirk. "This information will help them to decide on the policies and procedures needed to dismantle their nuclear weapons. Our long-term goal is to develop a network of security analysts and build bridges among these analysts in newly independent states."

Nuclear physicist Ted Taylor, who conducted a session at the workshop, said that it was important that the meeting was held under the auspices of AAAS, and not portrayed as a presentation by the U.S. government. "The environment allowed us to be honest and straightforward, and not bound by any U.S. policy," said Taylor.

Taylor, who participated in the atomic weapons development program at Los Alamos National Laboratories in the early 1950s, describes himself now as a "nuclear dropout." He said the meeting gave participants the opportunity to explore the benefits of eliminating nuclear weapons worldwide, particularly within the United States and Russia.

Taylor called the 1990s "the most dangerous and critical decade of the human race. We can't expect the rest of the world to eliminate their weapons if the United States and Russia don't apply the same standard," Taylor added.

Wander is hoping to bring a handful of workshop participants from the former republics to Washington next summer for a bird's-eye view of the U.S. security community at work.

The benefit for these individuals, says Wander, will be the experience they gain from American scientists and policy-makers, the knowledge they can bring back to their own countries, and the relationships they foster with each other during a visit to the United States.

Earlier this year, the Program on Science and International Security convened analysts from the United States, Middle East, South Asia, Northeast Asia, and Europe for a meeting in Cairo to discuss the proliferation of advanced weaponry in the developing world. They also organized a multinational workshop on security. Publications written by participants of these workshops will be released by AAAS later this year.

"What set AAAS apart from other international programs during the Cairo workshop was the interaction between analysts from industrialized and developing countries and among analysts from several regions of the world where proliferation concerns are the greatest," said Wander. "For instance, it was much more effective for the Pakistani nuclear program to be described by a Pakistani rather than be characterized by a U.S. proliferation analyst. The exchanges among representatives of different regions gave us a much better understanding of the complexities of the entire situation."

Where once the AAAS Program on Science and International Security centered its activities on East-West relations, the program has shifted its focus

to other regions—and other issues—while still maintaining a focus on the control over weapons of mass destruction.

Wander concluded that the underlying rationale for all of these meetings is to address the potential destructive power of advanced technology, particularly nuclear weapons. "The consequences of conflict can be devastating in these regions," he added. "That's why it is important that AAAS address security issues—to help avoid such conflict without undermining the benefits of science and technology and their role in international cooperation."

## AAAS Elections & Nominations

Your vote for AAAS president-elect, section officers, and members of the Board of Directors and Committee on Nominations must be postmarked by 12 November. The ballots have been mailed to all active AAAS members (as of the 3 September issue of *Science*). Members enrolled in a second or third section will receive ballots mailed separately for each section.

If you do not receive a ballot, or if you receive an incorrect ballot, please write to Linda McDaniel, AAAS Executive Office, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20005. Ballots postmarked after 12 November will not be counted.

AAAS members are eligible to nominate candidates (including themselves) for president-elect and the Board of Directors for election in the fall of 1994. Terms for these positions begin in February 1995. For a list of this year's candidates, see the 25 June issue of *Science*, or the contents page of any recent issue for a list of current Board members. Please send nominations with the candidate's curriculum vitae no later than 1 November to Gretchen Seiler, AAAS Executive Office, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20005.

## AAAS Science and Security Colloquium

On 15 October, the AAAS Colloquium on Science and Security will bring together technology, policy, and arms control experts at the Madison Hotel in Washington, D.C., to discuss security concerns in the new global arena.

The colloquium, "New Approaches to Arms Limitations and International Security," will feature several current and former Executive Branch officials as panelists, including Edward Warner, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense, and Gordon Oehler, Director of the Non-Proliferation Center, Central Intelligence Agency.

Plenary and special sessions will address recent agreements on nuclear and chemical weapons and technical challenges faced by nations eliminating nuclear and chemical warheads.

For more information about the colloquium or the Science and International Security Program's involvement overseas, contact Thomas Wander at (202) 326-6490.