

“Fight the nuclear death”

A symposium organised by the Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Hamburg

On 27 March 2008, the Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Hamburg organised a symposium with the title “Fight the nuclear death”, in co-operation with the IFSH, the Weizsäcker Centre for Natural Science and Peace Research (ZNF) and the Hamburg Research Centre for Contemporary History (FZH). The background of this event was the mass demonstration which took place on 17 April 1958 in front of Hamburg’s Town Hall, with around 150.000 people protesting against the nuclear armament of the Bundeswehr.

Historians and peace researchers from Hamburg joined the symposium and discussed the question of nuclear armament from the perspective of contemporary history and in the light of the present challenges.

After a welcoming by Heimo Reinitzer, president of the Hamburg Academy of Science, Axel Schildt (FZH) spoke about the protests against the atomic armament of the Bundeswehr in the mid-1950ies. The central motive of this actions was the fear of a nuclear third world war and the experiences of World War II. The admonitory declaration by renowned German nuclear physicists (the so-called “Göttingen Manifesto”) and the active role of the SPD gave birth to a large protest movement. This was contrary to the spirit of the “nuclear age”, which euphorically welcomed the civilian use of nuclear energy. Protests finally faded away, after attempts to organise referendums on the nuclear armament issue were prohibited by the Constitutional Court.

Horst-Eberhard Richter, honorary member of the board of directors of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), held a speech on “Atomic fear and humanity – Once and today”, pleading for the humanisation of the relations between peoples, instead of trusting the power of weapons. The physician and psychoanalyst talked about his commitment to the cause of reconciliation and his work in the IPPNW German section, of which he is co-founder, his efforts to prevent the annihilation of humanity by a nuclear war, his hopeful participation in Gorbachev’s disarmament initiative in the 1980ies and his talks with former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. He also mentioned his hope that the war in Iraq could be prevented, and his disappointment following the outbreak of the war.

Reinhard Mutz of the IFSH took the Berlin Crises in 1948/49 and 1958-1961 as examples to draw lessons from the Cold War. The tug-of-war on Berlin’s legal and political status, a highly explosive issue without equal in Europe, began in 1945 and ended in 1990. The Berlin crises in 1948/1949 and 1958-1961 were examples of a robust assertion of interests in the context of the East-West conflict. The protagonists of those crises managed to prevent an atomic war using unconventional measures, such as the airlift in 1948 and the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961. But both measures proved to be stopgap solutions against the disaster. Indeed, another decade passed by before an alternative solution could be found: with the Berlin Agreement of 1971, the Soviet Union ceased its opposition to the self-determination of the Western part of the city. The fuse on the atomic powder keg disappeared. So, although the risk of an East-West war in Europe could never be completely exorcised, Berlin was no longer perceived as a pontential cause of conflict. The unspectacular negotiation approach had finally won the comparison between confrontational and co-operative strategies of conflict management.

In his presentation titled “Nuclear Arms Race and the Great Powers: not yet a closed chapter?”, Götz Neuneck (IFSH) gave an overview of the subject from the beginnings of arms race in the 1950ies, through the end of the East-West conflict to the existing nuclear weapon arsenals, the connected employment doctrines and the implications for international security. When, in 1958, the courageous citizens of Hamburg came out into the streets, arms race had just begun, intensifying in the following years, until both super powers had produced nearly 70.000 nuclear warheads each, which happened in 1987. This led to Michail Gorbachev’s initiative to hold the first summit meetings with US President Ronald Reagan in Geneva and Reykjavik in 1986, with a view to putting an end to arms race. However, the complete elimination of nuclear weapons failed, not least because of Reagan’s Strategic Defense Initiative project. Nevertheless, important arms control treaties (such as INF in 1987 and START in 1991) were concluded during that time.

Today, strategic disarmament is at a standstill. Tactical nuclear weapons, which could also be employed by German aircrafts, still exist; important arms control treaties have been either devaluated or suspended, and the military-technical dynamic of US and Russian armed forces has been fostering the development of armaments (e.g. missile defence, outer space, new warheads). The nuclear arsenals of both great nuclear powers are still absurdly large. Furthermore, by not complying with their disarmament-related commitments, the USA and Russia have indirectly encouraged other states to develop own nuclear weapons. Still, a radical disarmament process would be possible, if a new US Administration would dare to embark on it.

Martin Kalinowski (ZNF) gave a lecture on “Nuclear weapons in unsafe hands – The Proliferation of nuclear weapons and international non-proliferation efforts”, highlighting how the efforts in the field of arms control, test banning, disarmament and civilian co-operation have proved to be effective against the proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear material.

Given the continuing existence of huge, horrendous nuclear arsenals, Germany’s nuclear participation within NATO and the plans to increase the tactical capability of nuclear weapons (“Mini-Nukes”), this interdisciplinary conference provided useful considerations to understand the still topical question of nuclear disarmament.

Contact:

Prof Dr Götz Neuneck
neuneck@ifsh.de

Dr Reinhard Mutz
Mutz@ifsh.de

Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly visits CORE

On 10 April 2008, the Secretary General of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Spencer Oliver and his deputy Tina Schon visited the Centre for OSCE Research (CORE). In a comprehensive exchange of thoughts with the Head of CORE Wolfgang Zellner, as well as with CORE researchers Diana Digol, Frank Evers and Anna Kreikemeyer, questions concerning election monitoring in the OSCE area by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly were discussed. Current critical issues and proposals made by Russia and the CIS states were also treated. In a subsequent

lecture, Oliver Spencer spoke about “OSCE election observation – Experiences and challenges ahead”, and discussed the topic with fellows and students of the IFSH.

Contact:

Dr Wolfgang Zellner
zellner@ifsh.de

China’s Overseas Development Assistance to Southeast Asia

On 31 March 2008, Bernt Berger participated in the conference “Japan's regional foreign, foreign economic and security policies”, organised by the University of Milan and the Toshina International Foundation. In the section on regional power competition, he presented a paper on China’s Overseas Development Assistance to Southeast Asia.

Contact:

Bernt Berger M.A.
bergerifsh@web.de

ZEUS: Workshop and Lectures in Shanghai

On 13/15 March 2008, Prof Hans J. Giessmann, Deputy Director of the IFSH, participated in the Sixth Workshop on Globalization in Shanghai, jointly organised by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Shanghai Institute for International Studies. This year, the workshop focused on the trilateral cooperation between Africa, China and Europe. Professor Giessmann’s contribution dealt with conceptual approaches to conflict transformation in Africa by external actors.

On invitation of the East China Normal University (ECNU), Professor Giessmann held lectures at the Centre for European Studies of ECNU. The series of five lectures was titled “European Security in Transition: Foundations, Actors, Perspectives” and was the prelude to the academic cooperation between the IFSH, the University of Hamburg and ECNU, agreed in October 2007.

Contact:

Prof Dr Hans J. Giessmann
giessmann@ifsh.de

XVII Amaldi Conference in Hamburg

From 14 to 16 March 2008, DESY, the German Electron Synchrotron (*Deutsches Elektronen Synchrotron*) hosted the XVII International Amaldi Conference in Hamburg. 60 scientists from Canada, China, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Norway, Poland, Russia, the UK and the USA discussed questions concerning nuclear non-proliferation and arms control, the monitoring of fissionable materials, verification, nuclear terrorism, the development of new destabilising military technologies (such as laser weapons) and the stability of the Middle East. For the first time, 15 young researchers participated in the conference.

The IFSH was represented by Michael Brzoska, Marcel Dickow, Oliver Meier, Jan Stupl and Götz Neuneck, who gave a lecture on “Directed Energy Weapons”. The lecturers had been designated by the respective national academies of sciences and the Royal Society. The highlight of the event was the lecture dedicated to Prof Wolfgang K.H. Panofsky, the American renowned physicist and co-founder of the Amaldi Conferences, who died last year at the age of 88. A former citizen of Hamburg, Panofsky had been honorary senator of the University of Hamburg und advisor of several US Presidents on issues relating to arms control and disarmament. The first Panofsky Lecture was held by Panofsky’s friend and colleague Richard Garwin. In his speech, accompanied by impressive fotos, Garwin emphasized Panofsky’s integrity, creativity and sincerity.

The event was organized under the auspices of the Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Hamburg, which, founded in 2004, is the latest member of the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities. Klaus Gottstein from Munich, representative of the Union of the German Academies for the Amaldi Conferences, chaired the organisation committee. DESY, the IFSH and the Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker Centre for Natural Science and Peace Research (ZNF) provided significant support to the organisation of the conference, which was sponsored by the “Stifterverband für die deutsche Wissenschaft”, the German Foundation for Peace Research (DSF) and the Alfred Toepfer Foundation.

Contact:

Prof Dr Götz Neuneck
neuneck@ifsh.de

Lecture at the Greens’ Peace Congress

Michael Brzoska participated as a keynote speaker in the Peace Congress of the Alliance '90/The Greens, which took place in Berlin on 7/8 March 2008. Other keynote speeches were given by John Ikenberry (Princeton University) and Charles Ukeje (Professor for International Relations at the Obafemi Awolowo Universität in Nigeria). The main purpose of the event was to discuss a paper prepared by the Commission on Peace and Security Policy of the Green Party, which also contains a statement by the IFSH. The corresponding texts are available online at:

http://www.gruene.de/cms/themen/dok/223/223379.perspektiven_von_drei_kontinenten.htm

http://www.gruener-friedenskongress.de/programm/Zwischenbericht_inkl._Sachverstaendige.pdf

Contact:

Prof Dr Michael Brzoska
brzoska@ifsh.de

Petersberg High-level Talks on Security

On 8 March 2008, Dr Hans-Georg Ehrhart participated in the fourth Petersberg Talks on Security in Königswinter, near Bonn. The high-level conference, organized by the Karl Theodor Molinari Foundation and headed by Ulrike Merten, chairwoman of the Defence Committee of the German Bundestag, dealt with “Crisis missions of armed forces – Results and perspectives”.

Contact: Dr Hans-Georg Ehrhart
ehrhart@ifsh.de

Egon Bahr received the Götting Peace Prize

On 1 March 2008, Prof Egon Bahr, the former director of the IFSH, received the “Göttinger Friedenspreis”. The prize was awarded by the Foundation Dr Roland Röhl for Egon Bahr's exceptional achievements as a statesman, diplomat and peace researcher. The laudation was given by Prof Hans-Peter Dürr, former member of the IFSH Scientific Council. The IFSH was represented by Michael Brzoska, who also spoke in honour of the prize winner. The speeches are available online at: <http://www.goettinger-friedenspreis.de/Aktuell/aktuell.html>

Contact:

Prof Dr Michael Brzoska
brzoska@ifsh.de

IFAR at the annual meeting of the German Physical Society

From 25 to 29 February 2008, members of IFAR participated in the 72th annual meeting of the German Physical Society in the TU Berlin, and introduced two plenary lectures. Prof Hartmut Graßl (Hamburg) gave the prestigious Max-von-Laue Lecture on “The Discussion about Climate Change – Scientific Facts and Options for Action”, which was introduced by Götz Neuneck in front of 1.000 listeners. Prof Ted Postol's (MIT) plenary speech was devoted to “The U.S. Missile Defense and its European Components - Implications for European Security”. On 26 February 2008, Götz Neuneck was accompanied Prof Postol to the presentation of the same subject in the German Foreign Office. On 28 February 2008 Prof Postol, G. Neuneck and Jürgen Altmann gave a press briefing at the Magnus-Haus in Berlin. The Working Group on Physics and Disarmament, chaired by Neuneck, held a two-day session from 27 to 29 February. Among the speakers was Jan Stupl, who presented his recent research results. The meeting consisted of 26 presentations and was attended by 50 to 200 listeners.

Contact:

Prof Dr Götz Neuneck
neuneck@ifsh.de

Workshop on Sustainable Security

An international workshop on “Sustainable Security in the Age of Globalisation” took place in the German House in London on 26 February 2008. The workshop was organised by the European Movement, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany. The participants were representatives of politics, diplomacy, economics and political science. Dr Hans-Georg Ehrhart, who attended the meeting on behalf of the IFSH, contributed to the first panel, dealing with peacekeeping and reconstruction.

Contact: Dr Hans-Georg Ehrhart
ehrhart@ifsh.de

Lecture in the German Bundestag

On 15 February 2008, Götz Neuneck was invited by the Subcommittee for Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation of the German Bundestag to talk about “Missile Defense – Its necessity and impact on arms control”.

Contact:

Prof Dr Götz Neuneck
neuneck@ifsh.de

Presentations by IFAR in Berlin

On 7 February 2008, Oliver Meier gave a presentation on “Non-integrative arms control approaches: a critical assessment” at the meeting of the Task Force on Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and Sensitive Technologies of the German Council on Foreign Relations in Berlin. On 8 March 2008, he spoke about current arms control challenges at a workshop dealing with the disarmament crisis, organised in the framework of the Green Party’s Peace Congress in Berlin.

Contact:

Dr Oliver Meier
oliver@armscontrol.org

CORE assists the establishment of a Diplomatic Academy in Armenia

On 28/30 January 2008, Frank Evers, CORE’s Deputy Head, met with Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Armen Baibourtian and the Head and Deputy Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, Ambassador Sergey P. Kapinos and Marc Bojanic, during a visit to Yerevan, Armenia. The purpose of the visit was to contribute to a first brainstorming and needs assessment aiming at the establishment of a Diplomatic Academy in Armenia. Among Evers’ interlocutors were also representatives of the Armenian Ministry of Education, Armenian universities and other public education institutions.

CORE has been asked to contribute to the design and the launch of the Academy because of its expertise as an international consultancy specialised in tailor-made institution-building and training services. CORE played a leading role in setting up the OSCE Academy in Bishkek between 2002 and 2004, and conducted a major specialized OSCE-related training course for officials of the Kazakh Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2007.

Contact:

Dr Frank Evers
eversfrank@lycos.com

Publications

Brzoska, Michael, Extending ODA or Creating a New Reporting Instrument for Security-Related Expenditures for Development?, in: Development Policy Review, Vol. 26, Issue 2, pp. 131-150, March 2008.

A debate has recently been initiated by a number of members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee to include security-related items in the definition of Official Development Assistance (ODA). This article looks at the logic of these proposals by means of a brief review of the history of the ODA definition as well as recent debates on the relationship between security and development. It concludes by recommending the creation of a new reporting category, namely the Official Security Assistance, for donor spending on security-related activities which meets the basic ODA criteria.

Cheng Jian, Relations between Russia and Europe from the Perspective of Energy Strategy, in: Hamburger Beiträge zur Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik, Nr. 150, February 2008.

In this study, Cheng Jian, visiting researcher from the Centre for European Studies of the East China Normal University (ECNU) in Shanghai, and expert on Russian and European energy economies, deals with the EU's energy strategy towards Russia, and Russia's energy strategy towards the EU, analysing the relationship between Russia and the EU on the basis of two case studies: the dispute between Russia and Ukraine over gas prices, and the EU Energy Charter Treaty. Available online at: <http://www.ifsh.de/pdf/publikationen/hb/hb150.pdf>

Hans Georg Ehrhart, Civil-Military Co-Operation and Co-Ordination in the EU and in Selected Member States, in: European Parliament, Directorate General External Policies of the Union, Department External Policies, Brüssel 2007, 41 pp.

With this study, ZEUS intends to contribute to the opinion making process within the EU regarding the development of the ESDP. Available online at: <http://www.ifsh.de/pdf/aktuelles/ehrhartcivmilcoo.pdf>

Heiko Fürst, Europäische Außenpolitik zwischen Nation und Union. Die Konstruktion des polnischen, rumänischen und ungarischen Diskurses zur GASP. [The European Foreign Policy between Nation and Union. The construction of the discourse on the CFSP in Poland, Rumania and Hungary] Baden-Baden 2008, 412 pp. (Demokratie, Sicherheit, Frieden, 185).

This study, dealing with the future development of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), elaborates a post-structuralist discourse theory, in order to explain the complex, multiple factors influencing the CFSP. The study examines what fundamental measures have been adopted in the national foreign policies of three selected countries, and how they have affected the CFSP.

Hans J. Gießmann, EU - China: "Strategische Partnerschaft" auf tönernen Füßen? [EU-China: a strategic partnership on feet of clay?], in: Österreichisches Studienzentrum für Frieden und Konfliktlösung (Hrsg.), Europäische Friedenspolitik. Inhalte, Differenzen, Methoden und Chancen, Wien-Berlin: LIT-Verlag, 2008, pp. 408-427.

This article deals with the difficulties in the co-operation between the EU and China. In view of the interest expressed by both parties to develop a long-term, constructive and strategic relationship, on the one hand, and the disagreement on key issues, on the other hand, the substance of the strategic partnership as a political objective is questioned.

Hans J. Giessmann (ed.), Security Handbook 2008. Emerging Powers in East Asia: China, Russia and India. Local Conflicts and Regional Security Building in Asia's Northeast. Baden-Baden 2008, 256 pp. (Demokratie, Sicherheit, Frieden, 186).

This volume of the Security Handbook - a publication series on regional security, development and co-operation - focuses on India, Russia and, particularly, China, and the challenges posed by their development to the security in East Asia.

Oliver Meier, Interview with U.S. Ambassador Donald A. Mahley, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Threat Reduction, Export Controls and Negotiations, February 8, 2008. Online available at: http://www.armscontrol.org/interviews/20080307_Mahley.asp.

In this interview, U.S. Ambassador Donald Mahley, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Threat Reduction, Export Controls and Negotiations, explains the United States' priorities for the upcoming Chemical Weapons Convention Review Conference.

Oliver Meier, News Analysis: Chemical Weapons Parlay's Outcome Uncertain, in: Arms Control Today, Vol. 38, No. 2, March 2008, pp. 47-49.

This article analyses prospects for the second Chemical Weapons Convention Review Conference, to take place in April 2008.

Götz Neuneck / Jürgen Altmann: US-Raketenabwehr – ein Danaergeschenk für Europa und die Welt? [US missile defense system: a Greek gift for Europe and the world?], in: Wissenschaft und Frieden 1/2008, pp. 40-44.

Based on a technical analysis of the planned components of the US missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic, this contribution shows that Russia's concerns about the long-term defense capability of the system in relation to Russia's arsenal is justified, but could be removed by co-operative measures.

Staff

In March 2008, Diana Digol from Moldova joined CORE as a researcher. She previously worked as teaching fellow at the European Inter-University Center for Human Rights and Democratisation in Venice. She holds a PhD in Political and Social Sciences from the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. Before that, she studied at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, the SAIS-Johns Hopkins University in Bologna, the Central European University in Budapest, and the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest and Chisinau. Thanks to all these experiences, Diana Digol has gained various diplomas, met good friends, learned important life lessons and several languages. She is fluent in Russian, Romanian, English, Italian and is improving her German skills. Among other things, she collects plush olympic mascots and dreams of visiting all continents of the Earth.

Contact:

Dr Diana Digol
digol@ifsh.de

Imprint

Responsible for this issue:

Michael Brzoska, Susanne Bund, Annelisa Cotone, Anna Kreikemeyer,