

In his message to Congress in October of 1945 President Truman observed that “The release of atomic energy constitutes a new force too revolutionary to consider in the framework of old ideas”. Shortly afterward The Federation of Atomic—later American—Scientists released a document filled with ideas about international control and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons.

We’ve recently reissued this publication, *One World of None*, with a new preface by Richard Rhodes. It’s troubling how contemporary many of these essays seem since critical issues the authors engage remain unresolved.

Sixty two years later we find ourselves with a nuclear policy built on ideas that even Mr. Truman would have considered outdated. Today the United States has 9950 nuclear weapons, 4000 are actively deployed and, of those, some 1300 are on a “hair trigger” alert. Most of these have 7 to 27 times the power of the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima. In order to justify this enormous inventory well after the end of the cold war the administration has developed an aggressive nuclear doctrine called

Global Strike that threatens to use nuclear weapons in ways that I believe most Americans would find shocking.

It's painful that arguments about missile defense, non proliferation and arms control have been played again and again for six decades. We've been fortunate that during all this time there no atomic weapon has been used in anger and no one harmed by an accidental detonation. Though there have been close calls – there was one last month. And the problem is getting worse. There are now at least nine nations with nuclear weapons and several others, as Richard Rhodes puts it, “pecking to get out”. The need for new energy sources that produce no greenhouse emissions may well lead to an enormous expansion of civilian nuclear power worldwide with the risk of diversion from uranium enrichment and transportation of dangerous materials increasing in proportion.

The blunt fact is that one of the few concrete efforts to address these challenges is the Non Proliferation Treaty. But in recent years the US seems interested in this treaty only if it constrains

our adversaries, not ourselves or our friends. It's an irony of history that the timing of this treaty put China and the Soviet Union onto the list of five nations allowed to have nuclear weapons while preventing India, a natural ally and a vigorous democracy, from achieving a similar status. But this treaty, with all its warts, stands as our main defense against proliferation. It should be strengthened and reformed to reflect today's reality but not shrugged off when it impedes a favorable trade agreement. The most pressing need is a renewed commitment to the core concept of the treaty – a pledge that nuclear nations would reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons while working with nations that agreed to forgo weapons to find safe ways to use nuclear power for peaceful purposes. *One World or None* argues strongly that expanded use of civilian nuclear power only makes sense in an environment where all nuclear material is under tight international control. The wisdom of their original insight is painfully obvious today.

Philip Morrison's chapter emphasizes that a nuclear bomb is not simply another weapon.

Morrison was on the first team of Americans that visited Hiroshima after the war. Deeply moved by what he saw he gained a lifelong determination to ensure that no one would ever have to witness such a thing again.

This conviction is shared by our speaker, Congressman Ed Markey. Hailed as the father of the Nuclear Freeze movement, his 1981 book, *Nuclear Peril*, sounded an early warning on the danger of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of rogue states. Congressman Markey has constantly championed legislation aimed at halting both the growth of weapons arsenals held by the existing nuclear weapons states, and preventing the spread of nuclear technologies to other states and sub-national groups.

In 1997, he founded the Bipartisan Task Force on Nonproliferation to focus congressional attention on emerging nonproliferation issues. In 2002, when the Bush Administration announced plans for a new nuclear bunker buster, Congressman Markey led the opposition.

For the past two years he has also led the opposition to the Bush Administration's proposal to grant India a special exemption from U.S. and international nuclear nonproliferation agreements. Which is one of the reasons we're all here this morning.

And with that, I'll give Congressman Markey the floor.