

Forum: Security Council

Issue: Prevention of accidental (nuclear) war

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Introduction

On August 6 and 8, 1945 the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have undergone atomic bombing of the U.S. Air Force. The new era in the history of weapon - an era of nuclear weapon - had begun with the end of World War II. After the USA, the Soviet Union began the development of nuclear weapon for ensuring balance between superpowers and on August 29, 1949 passed successful test of the first Soviet nuclear bomb - RDS-1. The started Cold War, race of arms and also military confrontation of the Western and East Blocks in all corners of the globe gave the chance to superpowers to expand the stocks of nuclear weapon. The need for nuclear weapon emerged also at such powers as Great Britain, France, India, China, Republic of South Africa etc. Unfortunately, in the years of Cold War the threat of nuclear weapon utilization in global and even regional conflicts became the ordinary and more than once threatened the fate of mankind and our planet. Despite numerous contracts on reduction of stocks of nuclear weapon and restriction of its range, risk of nuclear war never falls down and today proceeds generally from the countries which are in partial or full isolation from the world community. Hypothetically it was always considered that nuclear war can happen between the direct successor of the Soviet Union - the Russian Federation - and the United States of America as means of prevention of overland invasion of one of the countries in another, however as we see both powers at the moment use joint efforts on purpose not to allow a similar outcome. Therefore, it becomes clear that the nuclear threat can also proceed from potentially dangerous regional powers as North Korea, Iran, or Israel. Anyway, sudden nuclear war threatens with destruction of the most part of the population of the globe and also the nature, in a consequence of considerable influence of dangerous substances on the atmosphere and weather conditions. The purpose of this summary is consideration of historical incidents which could lead to a nuclear war and possible options of emergence of nuclear war in the modern world to note progress of the world community in prevention of this problem and to propose certain solutions for the rescue of our civilization.

Definition of key terms

Nuclear warfare - according to Wikipedia, nuclear warfare "is a military conflict or political strategy in which nuclear weaponry is used to inflict damage on the enemy. Nuclear weapons are weapons of mass destruction; in contrast to conventional warfare, nuclear warfare can produce destruction in a much shorter time-frame and can have a long-lasting radiological warfare dimension. A major nuclear exchange would have long-term effects, primarily from the fallout released, and could also lead to a "nuclear winter" that could last for decades, centuries, or even millennia after the initial attack."

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons - an international treaty the objective of which is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. Opened for signature in 1968, the treaty entered into force in 1970.

Operation RYAN - a Cold War military intelligence program run by the Soviet Union during the early 1980s when they believed the United States was planning for an imminent first strike attack. The name is an acronym for **Raketno-Yadernoe Napadenie (Nuclear-Missile Attack)**. The purpose of the operation was to collect intelligence on potential contingency plans of the Reagan administration to launch a nuclear first strike against the Soviet Union. The program was initiated in May 1981 by Yuri Andropov, then chairman of the KGB.

The Caribbean Crisis - a 13-day (October 16–28, 1962) confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union concerning American ballistic missile deployment in Italy and Turkey with consequent Soviet ballistic missile deployment in Cuba. The confrontation is often considered as the closest the Cold War came to escalating into a full-scale nuclear war.

Background information

As it has been already stated earlier, during Cold War there were serious incidents which could lead to a nuclear war between the Soviet Union and the United States of America. The brightest incident is the Caribbean Crisis in 1962 developed during the



placement of nuclear missiles by the Soviet Union in Cuba which could reach the coast of the State of Florida. These measures were the response of the Soviet Union to placement of the American PGM-19 ballistic missiles Jupiter in the territory of Turkey which flying range covered the territory of the USSR. Moreover, this act was considered as protection of the regime of Fidel Castro and the United States were interested in the overflow of this regime, in the investigation of what CIA repeatedly tried to perform operations on Castro's elimination. The sea blockade of Cuba by the American Naval Forces which followed the placement of the Soviet rockets and the running high Berlin crisis have shown inevitability of full-scale nuclear war as both parties were ready to strike the first blow to the opponent that could lead to unrecoverable consequences. Nevertheless, long negotiations between Khrushchev and Kennedy came to an end with the agreement on withdrawal of nuclear missiles from Cuba and Turkey that has reduced risk of unleashing of open war between the USSR and the USA for many years.



However, the probability of the beginning of nuclear war increased again in 1983 when the Soviet Union has shot down the South Korean passenger plane, identified as the intelligence aircraft that has resulted in the next tension in the Western and Eastern Blok's relations. In parallel, by this time the joint plan of Soviet KGB and East-German Stasi "RYAN" was being developed, according to which NATO forces had to hold nuclear attack against USSR and its allies the first that gave the opportunity to USSR to organize preventive strike. Suspicions about the American nuclear attack were supported with news of carrying out large-scale NATO trainings "Able Archer-83", where the situation of the nuclear attack of the USA to the socialist block with placement in West Germany of the new Pershing ballistic missiles was completely imitated. These trainings were mistakenly perceived by Soviet leadership as the beginning of nuclear attack against the Warsaw Blok therefore armed forces of the Soviet Union, the GDR, and the Polish People's Republic were brought to full combat readiness, however no incidents eventually took place. At that time a Soviet early warning station under the command of Stanislav Petrov falsely detected 5 inbound intercontinental ballistic missiles from the US. Petrov correctly assessed the situation as a false alarm, and hence did not report his finding to his superiors. It is quite possible that his actions prevented "World War III", as the Soviet

policy at that time presupposed immediate nuclear response upon discovering inbound ballistic missiles.

When we speak about regional confrontations with threats of nuclear war, first of all North Korea which nuclear program is directed to actions against South Korea, the United States of America and Japan is meant. The history of North Korean threat for the region began in 2003 when the North Korean authorities withdrawn the signature from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. In 2006 the first nuclear weapons tests were conducted to DPRK and today North Korea has nuclear warheads in number from 13 to 60. The most successful project of North Korea in the field of nuclear weapons is the intercontinental Hwasong-15 ballistic missile which range is 13000 km that directly includes the territory of the USA in the radius. On March 7, 2013, North Korea threatened the United States with a pre-emptive nuclear strike. On April 9, North Korea urged foreigners to leave South Korea, stating that both countries were on the verge of nuclear war. On April 12, North Korea stated that a nuclear war was unavoidable. The country declared Japan as its first target.



The highest threat in respect to nuclear weapon is also posed by intense Indo-Pakistani relations. During the conflicts surrounding Kashmir and Bangladesh and large-scale wars with use of aircraft and fleet, India and Pakistan have managed to produce nuclear weapon. The highest probability of use of nuclear weapon in this conflict was during standoff of India and Pakistan in 2001-2002 which were provoked by explosion in

the Indian parliament and unresolved questions of Kargil war in 1999. Despite successful attempts of the world community in prevention of nuclear war between Pakistan and India, both sides still threaten each other with nuclear attacks at any incident.

As Israel also owns nuclear weapon and threatened with it during Yom Kippur War in 1973, the probability of nuclear attack is also present at the Middle East, especially because of attempts of Iran to create own nuclear weapon, application to which can be found in result of an open standoff of Iran and Israel in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Major countries and organizations involved

Nuclear-armed states recognized by the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapon: USA, Russian Federation, the UK, France, China.

Nuclear-armed states not recognized by the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapon: North Korea, India, Pakistan, Israel, Iran.

Former nuclear-armed states: South Africa, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine.

International organizations: European Nuclear Disarmament, Greenpeace International, OPANAL and etc.

Relevant treaties and UN resolutions

Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (1967), United Nations Security Council Resolution 255 (1968) - recognized that aggression with nuclear weapons or the threat of it against a non-nuclear-weapon state would create a situation in which the Security Council, and above all its nuclear-weapon State members would have to act immediately in accordance with their obligations under the UN Charter.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (1968) - an international treaty the objective of which is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.

United Nations Security Council resolution 984 (1995) - gave assurances to non-nuclear weapon states that were parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) against the threat of nuclear proliferation.

Previous attempts to solve the issue

On 5 August 1963 The Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed, which prohibited testing of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere, space, and water. In 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed, however it did not enter to force because 8 specific states have not ratified the treaty.

In 2007 The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons started its work to promote full implementation of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, being inspired by success of International Campaign to Ban Landmines. Overall, by the year 2017 406 partner organizations and 101 countries have joined to this campaign.

Possible solutions

As the known phrase in Latin says *“Si vis pacem, para bellum”* (If you want peace, prepare for war), one of the effective measures to prevent accidental nuclear attack could be creation of system on reflection of strikes of nuclear missiles, including independently working jet systems of volley fire reacting to rockets as the Israeli “Iron dome”, and means of radio-electronic fight, capable also to slow down nuclear attack.

The particular emphasis has to be placed also on the suitable relation to the countries breaking the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapon in relation to which it is necessary to apply strong pressure in all spheres from the world community for the purpose of prevention of escalation of nuclear catastrophe.

Useful links

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/cold-war-international-history-project>

<https://www.cia.gov/library>

<https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com>

<https://millercenter.org/issues-policy/foreign-policy>

<http://www.planet-schule.de/>

<https://www.globalsecurity.org/>

<http://www.pravdareport.com/>