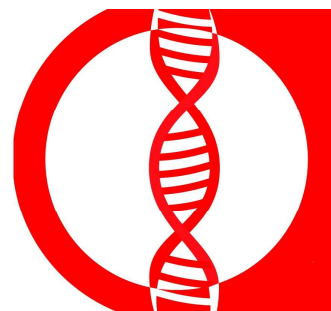


Research Group for Biological Arms Control



News and Activities 3

December 2006

Since our last Activity Report in July 2006, the Research Group has been integrated into the Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker Centre for Science and Peace Research (ZNF) at the University of Hamburg. Biological arms control is one of ZNF's three current research foci. Work of the Research Group focussed on the Sixth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) which took place in November/December. Among other things we went to the Foreign Office in Berlin in September for an exchange of views on the upcoming Review Conference.

Additional information, copies of publications and regular activity updates can be found on our website: www.biological-arms-control.org.

Ongoing Projects

The following research projects continue to be undertaken at the Research Group for Biological Arms Control. More detailed information on these projects is available on our website www.biological-arms-control.org:

- ◆ Controlling weapons by controlling science? The role of natural scientists in bioweapon programmes of states (funded by the German Peace Research Foundation).
- ◆ Lessons learned from the UN inspections in Iraq (funded by the MacArthur Foundation).
- ◆ Export-import monitoring – Can global trade data be used for biological arms control? (funded by the MacArthur Foundation and the Joint Programme of the Compagnia di San Paolo, the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond and the Volkswagen Foundation).
- ◆ Strengthening the Confidence Building Measures under the Bioweapons Convention (funded by the Berghof Foundation for Conflict Research).

New Publications

Aerial Surveillance and BWC Compliance Monitoring

In this paper, the role of aerial surveillance for verifying compliance with the biological weapons ban is addressed. The author argues that the convergence of recent trends – aerial imagery is becoming more widely available and is increasingly used by international organisations – calls for a thorough reassessment of the importance of aerial surveillance as one instrument in the biological weapons verification toolbox.

Meier, Occasional Paper No. 2, Research Group for Biological Arms Control.
University of Hamburg, November 2006.

Confidence-building needs transparency: an analysis of the BTWC's confidence-building measures

This article discusses options to strengthen the Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) mechanism under the BWC. The authors provide an analysis of the CBMs, make recommendations for increasing participation and improving the relevance of the reported data, and examine the disincentives and rewards associated with the CBM regime.

Hunger, Isla, *Disarmament Forum* No. 3 (2006), p. 27-36.

Ethics of reconstructing Spanish Flu: Is it wise to resurrect a deadly virus?

Using the resurrection of the Spanish Flu as an example, this Commentary makes the point that freedom of science has its limits in cases where the risks outweigh the benefits. Special attention is given to the standard argument of freedom-of-science-advocates: “if we don’t do it, somebody else would do it”.

van Aken, *Heredity* Vol. 98 No. 1, January 2007, p. 1-2, advance online publication on 11 October 2006.

Harnessing Global Trade Data for Biological Arms Control

In this article the idea of developing a comprehensive and global trade monitoring system for bioweapons related items is presented for the first time. As an example for successful trade surveillance the article provides a close look at the UNSCOM/UNMOVIC export-import mechanism for Iraq.

Jeremias, van Aken, *The Nonproliferation Review* Vol. 13 No. 2, July 2006, p. 189-209.

Workshops and Seminars

Lunchtime Seminar on Transparency

The Research Group co-hosted, with the Centre for Non Proliferation and Arms Control, a lunchtime seminar on 28 November at the BWC Sixth Review Conference in Geneva, entitled “Strengthening the BWC by enhancing transparency: the CBMs and beyond”. Nicolas Isla spoke on reforms which can be made in order to strengthen the CBM mechanism. Gunnar Jeremias introduced a system of monitoring the trade of bioweapon related items. David Fidler spoke on transparency and compliance. And Brian Rappert and Marie Chevrier presented their work on education and outreach to life scientists.

German Working Group on CBW Disarmament and Nonproliferation

The Research Group was co-organizer of the annual meeting of this working group, which took place on 3 November in Berlin and focussed on the upcoming Sixth Review Conference of the BWC. Volker Beck gave a presentation on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540. Jürgen Altmann spoke on bioweapons related developments in nanotechnology. Alexander Kelle presented first results of his study on NGO activities in biological arms control.

Teaching

During the second half of 2006, members of the Research Group were engaged in the following teaching activities:

- ◆ Lecture on “Natural Sciences and Peace Research”, in co-operation with the Hamburg Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH);
- ◆ ZNF seminar on “Natural Sciences and Peace Research”.

Staff Activities

Besides managing the Research Group in all its aspects, **Iris Hunger** continued work on her project “Controlling weapons by controlling science?” and spoke on the role of confidence building measures for strengthening the bioweapons ban at the conference “Implementing the BTWC: Challenges and Prospects”, organized by the European Union Institute for Security Studies, on 25 September in Paris.

Nicolas Isla has been running the project on strengthening the Confidence Building Measures mechanism under the BWC. He prepared a paper entitled “Strengthening the Confidence Building Measure Regime: A Catalogue of Recommendations” for discussion at the BWC Sixth Review Conference. Nicolas has also given a number of presentations on the importance of strengthening the CBMs: at a meeting at the German Federal Foreign Office in preparation for the BWC Sixth Review Conference on 2 November in Berlin, at the Global Green roundtable discussion “Developing a Comprehensive Global Biosecurity Regime” on 8 November in Geneva, at the Geneva Pugwash Conference “Towards a Successful Outcome of the Sixth Review Conference” on 19 November, and during a lunchtime seminar entitled “Strengthening the BWC by enhancing transparency: the CBMs and beyond” at the BWC Sixth Review Conference on 28 November in Geneva. He also undertakes the development of the Research Group’s website and logo.

Gunnar Jeremias has continued his work on the development of a concept for a global trade monitoring system for bioweapons relevant items. He went to the OPCW in The Hague on 8 August to discuss such a system with customs experts. Gunnar presented his project at the Global Green roundtable discussion “Developing a Comprehensive Global Biosecurity Regime” on 8 November and three weeks later during a lunchtime seminar entitled “Strengthening the BWC by enhancing transparency: the CBMs and beyond” at the BWC Sixth Review Conference, both in Geneva.

Anna Zmorzynska studied Biochemistry/Molecular biology at the University of Hamburg. Her final thesis, on HIV-Inhibition, was written at the Department of Virology of the Bernhard-Nocht-Institute for tropical medicine in Hamburg. Anna joined the Research Group as an intern in October. She works on the project for strengthening the Confidence Building Measures mechanism under the BWC, comparing data provided in CBM Form B on reportable disease outbreaks with open source databases. Anna helped with the preparation and distribution of the Research Group’s publications.



Gunnar Jeremias (right) and Nicolas Isla speaking during the lunchtime seminar “Strengthening the BWC by enhancing transparency: the CBMs and beyond” on 28 November at the BWC Sixth Review Conference in Geneva.

Research Group for Biological Arms Control

The aim of the Research Group for Biological Arms Control is to contribute, through innovative research and outreach activities, to the universal prevention of biological weapon development, production and use. The development of new strategies, concepts and methods for verification and ensuring compliance is the core research area of the Group.

Contact

Research Group for Biological Arms Control
C. F. v. Weizsäcker Centre for Science and Peace Research University Hamburg
c/o Fachbereich Chemie Martin-Luther-King-Platz 6 D-20146 Hamburg Germany
Tel +49 40 42838 4383 Fax +49 40 42838 3052 E-mail info@biological-arms-control.org
www.biological-arms-control.org