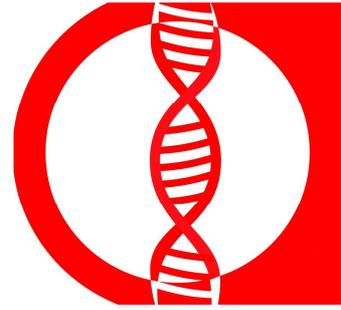


Research Group for Biological Arms Control



News and Activities 4

July 2007

Since our last Activity Report in December 2006, the Research Group has moved yet again. We are now housed, along with the other groups of the Centre for Science and Peace Research (ZNF), in permanent offices under one roof with the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH), the Research Centre for Contemporary History in Hamburg (FZH) and the Institute for the History of the German Jews (IGdJ). Having secured funding from the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond for a new project on the role of non-state actors in biological arms control we have further consolidated our financial basis. We are very happy that Anna Zmorzynska has joined the Group as a researcher; with her we are now a small but active group of four.

Detailed information on the work of the Research Group, copies of publications and regular activity updates can be found on our website: www.biological-arms-control.org.

New Project

In April 2007, the Research Group started a new project entitled “The Role of Non-State Actors in Promoting Nonproliferation and Arms Control against Biological Weapons”. The project is funded by the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond in Stockholm under the European Foreign and Security Policy Studies programme and will be carried out over two years. Nicolas Isla will be the principal researcher.

This new project analyses the role of non-state actors in the form of private industry, civil society and international institutions in biological weapons nonproliferation and arms control efforts. It examines the influence of these non-state actors in other nonproliferation and arms control regimes, namely the Nonproliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Mine Ban Treaty; and it will develop strategies in order for the European Union to more effectively integrate these non-state actors into its Common Foreign and Security Policy.

Ongoing Projects

The following research projects continue to be undertaken at the Research Group. 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).

New Publications

More Transparency for a Secure Biodefense

In this book chapter, it is argued that in order to prevent an erosion of existing international norms against the use of biological agents as weapons, it is essential to reverse existing trends towards more secrecy in the biological field. The dual-use character of activities in the biological field is analyzed in detail, the necessity for transparency is explained noting areas where it is of particular importance, and trends towards more secrecy are described and illustrated. Finally, it is recommended that dangerous activities be limited to a minimum and carried out in a transparent manner, that legally binding standards be set by which biodefence programmes that are close to the line between offensive and defensive activities can be identified and closely monitored, and that Western states - where still most of the sensitive research is being done - lead by example.

Hunger, in: Wenger and Wollenmann (eds.) *Bioterrorism: Confronting a Complex Threat*, Lynne Rienner Publishers: Boulder, London, 2007, p. 179-196.

Strengthening the Confidence Building Measure Regime: A Catalogue of Recommendations

This paper is, on the one hand, a guide to proposals for modifications to the CBM mechanism under the BWC framework made by States Parties. On the other hand, it is a catalogue of recommendations for changes which could be made to the CBM mechanism in order to improve participation and the quality of submissions. Improvements are proposed on several levels: to the forms themselves, to the international system which governs their collection, processing and distribution, and to member states' approach to the CBM compilation.

Isla, Occasional Paper No. 3, Research Group for Biological Arms Control.
University of Hamburg, March 2007.

Workshops and Seminars

Workshop on Export-Import Monitoring

In June, the Research Group organized a workshop in Hamburg to present and discuss the concept of a trade monitoring system for bioweapons relevant items with experts from the Federal Foreign Office, the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology and German customs authorities. Topics under discussion were experiences with trade monitoring systems in other areas, the need and ways to adjust the World Customs Organization's nomenclature for the identification of traded goods, the potential implications of a trade monitoring system for industry, and steps needed in order to bring the system into the political decision-making process for eventual implementation.

Teaching

During the first half of 2007, members of the Research Group were engaged in the following teaching activities:

- ◆ Lecture “Natural Science, Peace Research and International Security”, ZNF, University of Hamburg;
- ◆ Seminar “Natural Science and Peace Research”, ZNF, University of Hamburg;
- ◆ Lecture “Contribution of the Natural Sciences to Peace Research”, IFSH, University of Hamburg.

Staff Activities

Besides managing the Research Group in all its aspects, **Iris Hunger** continued work on her project “Controlling weapons by controlling science?”. She participated in the 16th Forum Global Issues “New Ways in Arms Control and Disarmament” at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin in March and in the conference on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention organized by the Federal Foreign Office and the German Institute for International and Security Affairs in Berlin in April. In June she went to Washington D.C. to participate in the Carnegie Nonproliferation Conference and to present and discuss the work of the Research Group at the 2007 MacArthur Foundation Grantees Meeting.

Nicolas Isla successfully concluded the project “Strengthening the Confidence Building Measures under the Bioweapons Convention” with the publication of the Research Groups third Occasional Paper “Strengthening the Confidence Building Measure Regime: A Catalogue of Recommendations”. He attended the Third Young Faces Conference of the European Foreign and Security Policy Studies programme “Seven Years On: Back to the Future” in Turin in February and was successful in an application to this programme funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, the Compagnia di San Paolo and the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond. His new project focuses on the role of non-state actors in promoting nonproliferation and arms control against biological weapons. Nicolas continues to manage the Research Group’s website.

Gunnar Jeremias has continued his work on the development of a global trade monitoring system for bioweapons relevant items. In February, he took part in the International Studies Association Conference in Chicago and presented a paper “‘We Can Work it out’. Common Non-Proliferation Efforts in the European Union”. In April, Gunnar went to Brussels to discuss the trade monitoring concept with experts at the World Customs Organization Headquarters. Gunnar prepared and participated in the Research Group’s Workshop on Export-Import Monitoring. He supported Iris Hunger in the administration of the Research Group.

Anna Zmorzynska joined the Group in July 2007 as a researcher after having worked with us as an intern during the last three months of 2006. She will carry out research on dual-use aspects of the modern lifesciences, provide support for the export-import monitoring project, and help with the organisational and administrative aspects of the Research Group’s work.



Left to right Gunnar Jeremias, Iris Hunger, Anna Zmorzynska, and Nicolas Isla.



The Research Group's new home on Beim Schlump.

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
Beim Schlump 83 D-20144 Hamburg Germany
Tel +49 40 42838 4383 Fax +49 40 42838 3052 E-mail info@biological-arms-control.org
www.biological-arms-control.org