

PNND Outreach trip to South America (Brazil, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay)

11-28 July 2006

Strategic implications of parliamentary work in Latin America:

Latin America has historically taken a lead in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament initiatives including establishment of the first regional Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, active participation in the Six Nation Initiative (Argentina and Mexico), strong support for the World Court case against nuclear weapons (especially Mexico and Costa Rica), negotiation of the 1991 agreement between Brazil and Argentina ending their nuclear weapons programs, promotion of a Nuclear Weapon Free Southern Hemisphere and Adjacent Areas, prohibition of nuclear weapons in national constitutions (e.g. Brazil), and involvement (Brazil and Mexico) in the New Agenda Coalition.

In an international environment of increasing nuclear threats from both proliferation and expanded nuclear doctrines, bold leadership from like-minded non-nuclear weapon States is again needed to initiate disarmament action both formally (such as through the United Nations General Assembly) and informally (such as through the Article VI Forum).

There is an increasing potential in Latin America for such leadership with the recent elections of progressive leaders in Brazil, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Argentina, Chile, Venezuela and Bolivia, and the possible election of a progressive president in Nicaragua. These countries are now developing stronger regional links to reduce the domination of the United States and develop policies and mechanisms suitable for the region.

However, these countries are focusing on economic and social reform programs. Leadership on nuclear disarmament will only emerge if there is sufficient local attention to this issue. An effective and efficient way to do this is to outreach to parliamentarians in key Latin American countries, particularly those in positions of responsibility, and empower them to be more active in promoting nuclear disarmament initiatives. For this reason PNND has included Latin America in its outreach and engagement program for parliamentarians.

PNND objectives in Latin America

PNND aims to strengthen the resolve and extend the activities of Latin American countries already active - such as Mexico, Costa Rica and Brazil - and to move other influential countries – such as Argentina, Chile and Uruguay – to become more active.

Many Latin American legislators are progressive thinkers and generally sympathetic to nuclear disarmament. However, few have direct access to comprehensive information on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation issues and little contact or communication with their foreign ministries on these issues. PNND could help on both these fronts.

In addition, PNND can help facilitate contact and dialogue between legislators within the region, and also with other legislators in North America, Europe and globally. Such dialogue could help spread the general norm against nuclear weapons which is held throughout Latin America. This could include, for example, dialogue between Canadian, Mexican and South American legislators on ways to minimise

the impact of US anti-nuclear disarmament pressure, and on ways to support their ambassadors and foreign ministers in the Group of Six, NAC, NSG, UNSC, OPANAL and the NWFZ Southern Hemisphere and Adjacent Areas initiative.

For these reasons PNND appointed a *South America Development and Outreach Coordinator* (Silvana Pereira, Uruguay)¹ and a *Project Coordinator-Latin America* (Kaspar Beech, Global Office – New Zealand).² Silvana and Kaspar organised a series of PNND meetings with legislators, legislative assistants, government officials and NGOs in Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile from 11-28 July 2006. Below is a summary of these meetings.

Progress

PNND has built up its membership in Brazil to 14 legislators including the President of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, in Uruguay to 8 legislators from across the political parties including the president and vice-president of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in Argentina to 8 legislators including the Chair of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee and in Mexico to 6 members from government and opposition parties. Some of these legislators have been actively promoting PNND and have endorsed international parliamentary initiatives circulated by PNND. However, members from Latin America have not yet been engaged in the Article VI Forum or in PNND meetings except those in Latin America such as those in national parliaments and the 2005 Parliamentarians and Civil Society Forum on NWFZs in Mexico.

Summary of Meetings in South America

Brasilia, Brazil.
11th – 13th July 2006.

Brazilian Membership before outreach:

Eduardo Suplicy PT
Roberto Saturnino PT
Luiz Carlos Hauly PSDB

Brazilian Membership since outreach:

José Eduardo Cardozo PT
Andre Costa PDT
Walter Feldman PSBD
Joao Miguel Feu Rosa PP
Fernando Flexa Ribeiro PSDB
Pastor Frankembergen PTB
Fernando Gabeira Verde
João Paulo Gomes da Silva PSB
João Magno de Moura PT
Nilson Mourão PT
Itamar Serpa PSDB

NGO partners.

Ágere: Lobbies MPs and runs programmes on Human Rights & public health issues.

¹ Silvana is contract for specific outreach and development tasks

² Kaspar works part-time in the Global Office. The Latin American Project Coordinator is one of his portfolios

Comunidade Ba'hai:

Associação Comunitaria Aramitan: Provides basic food, shelter, medical care etc.

Associação Palas Athena. Director Lia Diskin.

Monday 10th July 2006

- 6:00pm. Meeting with **Lia Diskin** Director of Associação Palas Athena.

Wednesday 12th July 2006.

- 9:30am meeting with **Congressman Walter Feldman**. Feldman is introducing Ministry for Peace resolution in São Paulo. May bring it to central Government. Should the PSDB party win the upcoming elections Walter may well be given a portfolio. Feldman requested 600 PNND brochures for distribution in Congress.
- 10:30. Interview with Congress media outlets including TV Brasil.
- 10:45. Meeting with **Congressman Carlos Alberto Leréia**- President: Mines and Energy Commission
- 11:00. Speech on "Nuclear disarmament- the role of Brazil and the PNND" hosted by **Congressman Carlos Alberto Leréia**. The speech was very well received and was followed by a round table discussion with **Ambassador Maria Luíza Viotti**, Director of the International Organisations section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and **Santiago Irazabal Mourão**- Director, Disarmament and Sensitive Technology Division of the Foreign Affairs Ministry. Mourão had just returned from the small arms conference in New York.
- 2pm. Meeting with **Senator Roberto Saturnino Braga**. Braga is old Brazilian MP: 40 years. First Labour party Senator. Served prison time with President Lula.
- 2:30pm. Interview with TVBrasil Which broad casts across Latin America. They also asked Saturnino what his views were on the PNND to which he replied very favourably.
- 3:30pm. Meeting with **Congressman Fernando Gabeira**. Gabeira is a human rights stalwart. Currently working on re-establishing credibility of Congress after recent corruption scandals. Only BR. MP banned from US after kidnapping Ambassador.
- 4:30pm. Meeting with **Senator Eduardo Matarozo Suplicy**. Has been the president's right hand man for many years. His wife was Mayor of São Paulo.
- 6:00pm. Meeting with **Senator Flexa Ribeiro**. Requested 100 PNND brochures which he would distribute among the senators along with a letter encouraging them to join.

Thursday 13th July 2006.

- 10am. Meeting with **Cláudio Medeiros Leopoldino**: Disarmament and Sensitive Technologies Division of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.
- 12noon. Meeting with **Iradj Roberto Eghari**: National Secretary for External Relations of the Brazilian Baha'i Community, Managing Director of Ágere advocacy NGO, lecturer in International Relations and Human Rights at the University of Brasilia. Was very interested in working together with PNND.
- 2:30pm Interview with TVCâmara. The interview was aired Tuesday 18th at 8am, 12noon & 8:30pm.

Point of interest: the idea of exporting the Brazil-Argentine Nuclear non-aggression and peaceful technology sharing agreement to India and Pakistan came up for the first of many times here. It was repeated again in Argentina. With each parliamentarian I outlined the various initiatives the PNND has been involved in and raised the issue of returning to the world court. I mentioned that NGOs were currently talking with governments at the UN to gage support. I mentioned that no country had yet decided volunteered to introduce a resolution. All the MPs that I spoke with and the NGOs as well urged me to return to Brazil after the elections and after Feldman and Ribeiro had distributed the

PNND brochure to give a high profile speech and debate on nuclear weapons. They wanted to involve more media and have a serious national debate.

Brazil- São Paulo
14th – 17th of July 2006

Friday 14th July 2006.

- Meeting with **Santiago de Marco**: Director- Associação Comunitaria Aramitan.
- Meeting with Organising committee of the conference Connectivity2006.

Monday 17th July 2006.

- 11:00am. Meeting- New Zealand Consul in São Paulo: **William Wattie**.
 - 7pm. Speech at conference Connectivity2006. Youth interrelations conference.
-

MEETINGS HELD IN MONTEVIDEO, UY JULY 18-20 2006

- **PARLIAMENT**

Eloisa Moreira, Congress

Daniel Peña, Congress

Jaime Trobo, Congress

Silvana Charlone, Congress

Ruben Martinez Huelmo, Congress

- **CITY HALL**

Laura Vignolo, Advisor to the Mayor for 15 years, PhD in Nuclear Physics and Spatial Development, former Member of the Board of the Center of Nuclear Research (The Mayor was the Dean of the Science and Technology School of the Uruguay Public National University for 15 years, he's a PhD in Biochemistry)

- **CENTER FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH**

President of the Institute: **Jenia Balte**

Director of the Logistics and IT Unit, Member of the Board of the Center, **Omar García**

Director of the Biotechnology and Research Center, Member of the Board **Pablo Cabral**

- **NZ Consul IN Uruguay**

Hon Cónsul of NZ, Mr. **Manuel Herrera**

Representatives from 10 different NGOs including PIT/CNT (National Labor Union), SERPAJ (Education Center for Peace and Justice), the Institute of Spatial Development and others to be confirmed, My contact is through the President of the Board of all of these NGOs, Dr Gabriela Yapor (lawyer), who is the Chairperson of the Commission of Society and Social Organizations (a Committee that gathers all NGOs in Uy)

Technical Commission of the Senate on Technology and Energy, Senate, Montevideo, whose members could not see us today or yesterday due to a budgetary meeting (Ruperto Long is the President of this Senate Commission, remember him? He's already a member) 7 members will attend, all Senators and all mainly from the opposition.

Silvana Pereira

Montevideo

July 20, 2006

Membership before outreach:

Dr. Pablo Abdala Nacional

Diego Canepa EFPA
Felipe Michelini EPFA
Ruperto Enzo Long Garat Nacional
Gustavo Penadés Nacional
Iván Posada Independiente

Extra membership since outreach:

Rubén Martínez Huelmo EFPA (government) President Foreign Affairs Commission Congress.
Daniel Peña Fernández Alianza Nacional(opposition) Vice-President Foreign Affairs Commission-
Congress.

Both Uruguay and Chile began debating their countries stances on nuclear energy the Friday before I arrived. Speculatively this could be the result of an investment offer. The consequences for us were an increased intensity in questions with that regard. The first question was “why does France have nuclear energy? Which led me to think maybe France made the investment offer. There was a question with regards to my opinion on the health of the NPT in 2005 and the future. Nuclear energy was a major issue for these MPs and one has since asked me for further information. However, the MPs remained very much on the subject of nuclear weapons and how the PNND can help.

Buenos Aires, Argentina
24th – 25th July 2006.

Monday 24th July 2006.

- Meeting with **Oscar Natalichio**- Dean of the Universidad Popular: Madres de Plaza de Mayo. Marxist University. Runs official and unofficial (free) courses.
- Meeting with **Ambassador Lucy Duncan**, New Zealand’s Ambassador to Argentina. Ambassador Duncan has worked at the UN on disarmament.

Tuesday 25th of July 2006

- Meeting with the advisor to Jorge Martín Arturo Argüellos, **Gonzalo Santamarina**. Argüellos is the president of the Congress Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee. Gonzalo is Vice-president of Fundación Contemporanea.
- Meeting with **Juan de Wandalaer** the political and foreign affairs coordinator of SERPAJ. Founder of the Peace and Justice Service (SERPAJ), Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1980 for his work on Human Rights.
- Meeting with the chief advisor to Jorge Antonio Villa Verde, of the Congress Foreign Affairs Commission, **Fernando Jorge García**. He is a retired Admiral.
- Meeting with the advisory board to Senator Carlos Alberto Reuteman- President of the Senate Foreign Affairs Commission. The principle advisor was **Dr. Carlos Alberto Carranza** (Political Scientist). Deputy was **Sergio Ernesto Negri** (lawyer).
- Meeting with **María Paula MacLoughlin** from the International Security, Nuclear and Space Issues Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. María was very well informed and had been at the NPTRC 2005, at the UN and had played a role in setting up the CTBTO.

Argentine Membership before outreach.

Marcelo Lopez Arias
José Luis Barrionuevo Justicialista
Francisco Gutierrez Polo Social

Radical Independiente

Andres Zottos P. Renovador de Salta

Argentine added membership after outreach.

Jorge Martin A. Arguello Justicialista

Maria Carolina Moises Justicialista

Carlos Daniel Snopek Justicialista

NGO Partners:

- Universidad Popular: Madres de Plaza de Mayo.
- Fundación Contemporanea.
- SERPAJ Argentina.

These meetings involved questions largely to do with the structure and programme of the PNND and not so much with the state of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Argentina recently secured a contract with Australia to sell nuclear technology. They say their technology is world leading and are very proud of that fact. There are a number of nuclear technology bodies in Argentina who I made contact with by mail.

Santiago, Chile
26th – 28th July 2006.

Wednesday 26th of July 2006.

- Telephone conversation with **Ambassador Nigel Fyfe**, (we could not meet as he was running to a flight). Nigel is a colleague of Alyn's and had worked at UN.
- Meeting with Instituto Libertad – Advisory ThinkTank with a mandate to advise the party Renovación Nacional (RN). **Maria Luisa Brahm**, the Executive Director **Tomas Duval Varas**-lawyer and political scientist in charge of elections analysis & **Rodrigo Yáñez**- lawyer received us. They had many probing questions especially with regard to our apolitical and non-partisan stance, especially with regard to nuclear energy. They promised to suggest to the RN MPs to join PNND. They urged me to come back to Chile to give a presentation to the RN caucus.
- Meeting with Fernando **Aliaga Rojas**, - Director, SERPAJ, Chile. SERPAJ does community poverty relief in what used to be Pinochet Torture chamber complex.

Thursday 27th of July 2006.

- Meeting with **Prof. Fransisco Vio G.** – President of Fundación Ideas. Ideas started to educate Chileans on how to vote at end of Pinochet Dictatorship. Fransisco is a Political Science exiled to Argentina and the UK where he lectured Sociology. Friday 28th July 2006.
- Meeting with **Fransisco Vio G** again, and **Jorge Pesce** of Fundación Ideas. We discussed strategy and key parliamentarians. Nuclear Energy was a key issue as it had been in Uruguay and Argentina also. They were full of good suggestions and very interested in working together with us. He urged me to return to speak at congress. They are well connected with MPs across the political spectrum.