

Thoughts on Getting to Zero

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Overview

- The Logic of Zero
- ISODARCO
- Immodest Proposals

ISODACO

- Think Big
- Complexity
 - Unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral processes
 - Interconnected but separate goals regarding nuclear arms control/disarmament, non-proliferation and missile defense, not mention regional balances and particular flash points
 - Time frames overlap and/or not optimal
- Gaps between Elite and Public Understanding

The Logic of Zero

“Achieving Universal Adherence”

- Create an ever growing coalition of countries that accept the logic of zero
 - a world without weapons is only way of guaranteeing that such weapons will never be used
 - that in the interim the only valid purpose for nuclear weapons is to prevent their use by others
 - that all fissile material must be subject to international accounting and control
- Recommended US Diplomatic Initiatives
 - Reassure allies
 - Focus on nonnuclear states
 - Continue to nuclear states that are not supportive
 - Engage Russia

Immodest Suggestions

- Summitry
- Clean Slate
- Moratorium

Summitry

- When? January 2010
- Who? Leaders of Five (plus one?) Major Nuclear Powers
- Purpose: Getting to Zero
- What?
 - Reset Agenda
 - Establish Process
 - Set Time Table
 - Concentric Circles of Engagement
 - Public Support/Momentum

US Moratorium

- Pledge to defer new programmatic decisions on nuclear weapons and systems until after Summit
- Encourage allies and others to do the same pending Summit
- US should act unilaterally if necessary as an act of good faith
- Major strategic and programmatic reviews already scheduled should be guided by the fundamentals of the Logic of Zero (NPR, QDR, etc.)

Clean Slate

- Table, at least temporarily, existing agreements and ongoing negotiations
- Why:
 - Efficiency
 - Baggage
 - Path Dependence
 - Clarity
 - Focus

Conclusion

- Under President Bush Secretary of State Rice often spoke of, but barely pursued, “Transformative Diplomacy”
- Both President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton now have an opportunity to put transformation into practice by leading international efforts toward zero
- It needs to be done in a major, well publicized, internationally legitimate forum