A diverse group of student activists from the EIRENE Project in Stuttgart wrote a spontaneous protest song and rallied at the main gate. Signs read: "Make peace instead of nuclear weapons," and "Atomic weapons are illegal and inhuman."

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Römer heard Susan's appeal to treaty law and the Nuremberg Principles, but did not address the issue of unlawful weapons, and saying Crane would be held until 6 a.m. the next morning.

About the judge's refusal to speak to the legal status of nuclear weapons, Crane said on the record, "I thought judges in Germany would be different."

Five of the 11 US delegates promised to return for International Week in 2020 if the bombs haven't been withdrawn by then.

On July 16 four resisters cut in, but were quickly detained.

Special Nukewatch thanks to donors who provided generous extra support for the costs of the US delegation: Steve Clemens, Sharon Cody, Qui'tas & Willie Lehner, Bron Lucas, Pat McSweeney, Art Milholland, and John & Carrie Schuchardt.

Glitches Delay B61 H-Bomb Replacement

All the B61 bombs now in the United States and Europe are scheduled to be replaced by the "mod-12." The website airforcetechnology.com says, "The B61-12 air-launched tactical bomb will carry a *low-yield* nuclear warhead…." [emphasis added] With 50 kilotons of explosive blast (50,000 tons of TNT), the B61-12 has over three times the force of the Hiroshima bomb that killed 140,000 people. Only a military mentality reminiscent of Dr. Strangelove can imagine over 420,000 dead as a "low yield."

A total of about 3,155 B61s have been produced (as of 2012), beginning with mod-0. Approximately 540 are still deployed, 415 are in "inactive" status, and 520 are set for dismantlement, according to the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*.

According to the Dept. of Energy, four versions of the B61 remain in the arsenal: models 3, 4, 7, and 11. These nuclear bombs have explosive forces of 170 kilotons (mod 3), 45 kilotons (mod 4), 340 kilotons (mod 7), and 400 kilotons (mod 11). They have between 27 and 32 times the force of the Hiroshima bomb.

The B61-11 was reportedly built to destroy underground targets, and the Pentagon has asserted that it can detonate at depths of "several hundred feet."

The Pentagon intends to replace all the B61s now deployed in five European NATO countries. The B61-3s and B61-4s are to be replaced with the new B61-12. About 400 of the new bombs were scheduled to enter full production in 2020 and be deployed after 2023, but the $10 billion program has been delayed because of the delivery of faulty commercial electronic parts.

Asked in May 2019 if the B61-12 will be ready in 2023 as planned, National Nuclear Security Administration head Lisa Gordon-Hagerty said, "That should be beyond 2025," she said, noting that "an issue" had arisen, without elaborating. Energy officials later said the delay to the B61-12 could last 18 months, *Congressional Quarterly News* reported.

At present, Turkish, Dutch, Italian and possibly Belgian air forces are planning to buy some F-35 fighter jets from the United States, and the F-35s could begin replacing existing NATO warplanes in 2024. Germany is expected to extend the use of its Tornado fighter jets through the 2020s. German Tornado fighter jet pilots at Büchel Air Base practice in the use of the US B61s to initiate nuclear war.

In July 2018, after a group of International Week protesters occupied the air base runway, the chief pilot from the base made a personal visit to the peace camp to complain. The chief pilot said to Susan Crane of the US delegation that the protesters had "endangered themselves and the pilots."

Crane replied that the "pilots endanger the whole world by planning and preparing for war with US nuclear weapons." The chief then said, "There were no nuclear weapons on those jets today."

—Sources: *Congressional Quarterly News,* Sept. 17, 2019; nuclearweaponarchive.org/Usa/Weapons/B61.html; The National Interest, "Why the B61-12 Bomb Is the Most Dangerous Nuclear Weapon," Oct. 9, 2018; Nuclear Threat Initiative; Government Accounting Office, "B61-12 Nuclear Bomb: Cost Estimate," May 31, 2018.

Foundation Sues German Military for Büchel Air Base Radiation Data

The German civil liberties group Foundation for Renewable Freedom (FRF) wants to know if radiation—emitted by US nuclear weapons stored at Büchel Air Base—is a health threat to workers and the local population.

The Ministry of Defense refuses to publish data and documents on radiation hazards at the Büchel site. The FRF considers this irresponsible and has brought the Ministry of Defense to court demanding the release of the information to the public. "… we have filed a lawsuit and will release this information to the public through the courts," said Martin Modlinger of the FRF Board of Directors.

"Anyone who is exposed to dangers must have a right to information about these dangers. How else does a society … debate meaningfully, and decide whether it is willing to bear these dangers?" Modlinger asked. "We cannot accept such disregard for citizens' information rights."

According to a news release by FRF, Germany's Environmental Information Act allows citizens to request environmental data from authorities. Details about radiation from the air base can be demanded in order to assess the potential endangerment of residents or military personnel stationed there, FRF says.

Worst Kept Secret: US Nuclear Weapons Still in Europe

Nuclear weapons are secluded behind high-level security and top-secret deniability. None of the nine nuclear-armed countries ever "confirm or deny" the locations of their particular warheads. In our last issue we deciphered enough military doubletalk to confidently if unofficially verify that 20 US nuclear bombs are still deployed at Büchel.

Still it came as a surprise this summer when the Belgian newspaper *De Morgen* published a leaked NATO document detailing the exact numbers and locations of the US nuclear weapons now in Europe.

Quoting the leaked NATO report, *De Morgen* revealed that the "... US forward-deploys approximately 150 gravity bombs, specific B61 gravity bombs, to Europe for use on both US and Allied dual-capable aircraft. These bombs are stored at six US and European bases—Kleine Brogel in Belgium, Büchel in Germany, Aviano in Italy and Ghedi-Torre in Italy, Volkel in The Netherlands, and Inçirlik in Turkey." ("Dual-capable" is a warplane that carries both nuclear weapons and others.)

De Morgen's July 16 headline was, "Finally in black and white: There are American nuclear weapons in Belgium." The paper's exposé marks the first time that the officially secret deployment has been authoritatively confirmed by NATO itself. Dutch broadcaster RTL News mocked the significance of the leaked document saying, "NATO reveals The Netherlands's worst-kept secret."

The NATO report, titled "A new era for nuclear deterrence? Modernization, arms control, and allied nuclear forces," was finished April 16, 2019 by the Canadian Senator Joseph Day, who is the rapporteur for the Defense and Security Committee of NATO's Parliamentary Assembly. ***—JL***

—Brussels *De Morgen*, July 16; *The Washington Post*, *The South China Morning Post*, the London *Sun*, the London *Express*, and Military Times online, July 17, 2019