

Update

June 2008

Ron Zucker, Editor

Local

June 24 Film Screening

Kissinger and Intervention On Trial

In “The Trials of Henry Kissinger,” we have a film about an individual regarded by many as a perpetrator of international war crimes. The 2002 film, by Alex Gibney and Eugene Jarecki, touches on an attempted citizen’s arrest of this “suspect” by noted author and activist Christopher Hitchens in London, where Kissinger was speaking at an official function. While only implied in the film, the incident is a symbol for the case the movie makes for Kissinger’s role in war crimes and the notion of actually bringing him to trial.

On Tuesday, June 24, Peace Action of San Mateo County will hold a free screening of “The Trials of Henry Kissinger.” We will gather at 7 PM in Beck Hall of the Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo, 300 E. Santa Inez Avenue in San Mateo. Beck Hall is wheelchair accessible. The film is 79 minutes long.

“The Trials of Henry Kissinger” goes on to document the various wars and interventions on the part of the Nixon administration, including the sabotage of the 1968 Paris Peace Talks regarding the war in Vietnam; the subsequent lying to America concerning the bombing of Cambodia; the arranging for the murder of General Rene Schneider of Chile and the subsequent overthrow of that country’s elected President, Salvador Allende. This was all followed by the “green light” given to the Indonesian dictators to enable the invasion of East Timor. These events were for the perceived enhancement of American diplomatic advantage and demonstration of our political power.

The film’s outlook seems to have direct relation with what many in this country feel could happen to many in the Bush Administration for similar wrongdoing, regarding the selling and conduct of the Iraq War. It is a striking parallel with today’s war and its perpetrators. Just as an aside, Mr. Hitchens supported our involvement in our Iraq adventure, yet many others want to take his place in the effort to bring international criminals to justice.

Mike Caggiano and Ron Zucker

Mark your calendars:

**Coming Saturday July 19: PSMC Annual Dinner!
Details in July Update.**

Antiwar Message for the Mall

We had about 10 people participate in the Mall Walk along with Anne Carey’s local Declaration of Peace group at Hillsdale Mall on Saturday, May 24. This was far fewer than last time, but we were still effective in making a subliminal and also overt statement to shoppers, that there are people who feel strongly about this illegal war and want our “troops home now,” as our T-shirts said.

For two hours we did our “shopping” and then had lunch, wearing those shirts and walking in groups of three to five. We had such a good time that there is thought of making it a more regular event – much like our Saturday vigil and Declaration of Peace’s Thursday vigil. (We’ll keep you posted.)

Thanks to all who showed up, and especially a couple of new folks who came all the way from Sunnyvale to be with us.

Mike Caggiano

June Iraq Moratorium March and Picket to Stop Torture



The next Iraq Moratorium event, Friday, June 20, will honor the upcoming International Day in Support of the Victims of Torture on June 26. This is the anniversary of the effective date of the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Thus this month’s Moratorium features a return to the San Jose Headquarters of Jeppesen Dataplan. Jeppesen has profited from the illegal kidnappings and torture by handling the logistics for the CIA’s so-called “extraordinary rendition” flights. The company’s headquarters is at 225 W. Santa Clara Street in San Jose. The protest begins at 11:30 AM; marchers from the San Jose Caltrain station (see below) should arrive at about noon for an informational picket and press conference.

The UN Convention Against Torture clearly states that no country may “extradite a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture.” The convention entered into effect on June 26, 1987 and was signed by the U.S. in 1988. Thus the CIA’s practice of “extraordinary rendition” – outsourcing the interrogation of suspected terrorists to countries known to practice torture – violates both U.S. and international law.

Jeppesen is a Boeing subsidiary accused of providing logistics for such "extraordinary rendition" flights. The U.S. Justice Department intervened in a lawsuit against Jeppesen, claiming that state secrets would be revealed if the lawsuit were allowed to go ahead. Meanwhile in July 2006, Jeppesen Managing Director Bob Overby was quoted in a statement to employees, "We do the torture flights."

For over a year activists in the south bay and the peninsula have been organizing protests against Jeppesen, demanding that it cut ties to the CIA and such flights. Jeppesen has so far refused to respond. On June 20 we will again tell the company how we feel about participants in torture operating in our community.

Participants can take the "Anti-Torture Train," Caltrain #138; get on at the first car to find other protesters. In middle San Mateo County this train leaves from Millbrae at 10:31 AM, San Mateo at 10:38 AM, and Redwood City at 10:55 AM. The train is scheduled to arrive at the San Jose station at about 11:40 AM, at which time its riders will march to Jeppesen...the site and target of this collective statement in opposition to torture.

Early that morning leafleting against the Iraq war will continue at Caltrain stations up and down the peninsula. For information on volunteering at stations from San Carlos to San Francisco, call Anne Carey of the Declaration of Peace - San Mateo County at 415-238-0704 or email her at abcarey@comcast.net.

JOIN PEACE ACTION OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

New Member Renewing Member

Name: _____

Address: _____

e-mail: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

\$30 Individual Membership

\$40 Family Membership

\$52 ("A Dollar a Week for Peace")

\$15 Student/Limited Income

Other \$ _____

\$__ Bonnie Burnham Memorial Fund (Supports Video Project in Schools)

\$__ Leo Sack Memorial Fund (Addtl. Donation)

\$__ Student Activist Scholarship Fund

Please make checks payable to:

PEACE ACTION OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

P.O. BOX 425, San Mateo, CA 94401-0425

Because of our advocacy and political action programs, membership is not tax deductible.

Saturday and Thursday Peace Vigils
Every Saturday from 3-4 PM Peace Action of San Mateo County holds a vigil to oppose the war and occupation in Iraq. We gather in front of the local office of Rep. Jackie Speier, 400 S. El Camino Real (at 4th Ave.) in San Mateo.

And at the same location, every Thursday from 4-6 PM, Declaration of Peace-San Mateo continues its "Fasting for Peace on Thursdays."

Come and let our Representative and our community know how you feel.

Robert Scheer in Palo Alto

Journalist Robert Scheer has marked his 40-year career with his latest book, "The Pornography of Power: How Defense Hawks Hijacked 9/11 and Weakened America." On Thursday evening, June 26, the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center will present Scheer, who will speak on the book and its subject matter of the destructive nature of the U.S. military-industrial complex.

In "The Pornography of Power," Scheer examines the expansion of our military presence throughout the world, our insane nuclear strategy, the immorality of corporations profiting in Iraq, and the arrogance of our foreign policy. At a time when many are exploiting fears of terrorist attacks and only a few national leaders are willing to advocate cuts in defense spending, nuclear disarmament, and restrained use of American force, he has written a manifesto for enlightened reform.

Scheer will speak – and sign copies of the new book – at 7:30 PM in the main hall of the Palo Alto Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 E. Charleston Road in Palo Alto. The suggested donation is \$7-15. The church is wheelchair accessible. For more information call 650-326-8837 or log on to www.PeaceandJustice.org.

Membership Report

Peace Action of San Mateo County welcomes the following new members: Carol A. Buse, Gary Parma
And we welcome back these renewing members: Louis Facchino, Daniel Gilbrech, Vany Laurenti

Sometimes I wonder whether the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on or by imbeciles who really mean it.

-Mark Twain

National

Celebrating Grassroots Activism: Peace Action's 50th Anniversary National Congress

July 18-21, Washington, DC

The National Congress is a central part of our strategic process toward peace in that the Congress provides a mechanism to tap into the collective power of the grassroots.

Every two years Peace Action organizes this Congress to:

- Identify priorities for the organization;
- Brainstorm ways of addressing those priorities;
- Gain issue and skill based knowledge to enhance our future work; and,
- Provide networking opportunities for peace activists all over the U.S.

Most importantly we also re-establish face-to-face connections between activists who work together on national mobilizations, to carry and build on Peace Action's 50 extraordinary years of work and continue our peaceful vision into the future.

This year, in addition to voting, workshops, dinners, and entertainment, Peace Action will host a Congressional Education Day on Capitol Hill. Our policy staff have tailored their trainings to peace lobbyists of all levels (beginner through expert) to learn how to make an impact on our Representatives and bring peace issues to their desks. There will also be workshops on organizing for the elections; on the militarization of schools; on promoting diplomacy with Iran and trainings in non-violent direct action.

The Congress is unique from any other meeting in that we vote on the most important decisions about the future of Peace Action – as an organization and as a member in the larger peace movement. We create space for every member to take part in the strategic planning process. We have already begun the debate: where and how should we focus our resources; how can we capitalize on the election; and, what other tactics could we use? We need your input and this is the forum to give it.

Many of the workshops will be skill based: we'll learn from each other by sharing and analyzing which strategies have and haven't worked and why, how to utilize the media, how to build your donor and membership base, etc. Other workshops will be issue-based: How to involve and work side by side with youth in your peace work; how to build partnerships with unlikely allies to advance our peace agenda; the way forward in Iraq and Iran, and much more.

We will also have fun! We dedicate our lives to endless hours of work for justice – and we rarely ever treat ourselves. This year's Congress is the place to do it. There will be parties, receptions, exciting speakers, and entertainment throughout the weekend, providing activists from all over the country the opportunity to revive their inner calling to peace and carry this into the larger peace community as a whole.

Consider this your formal invitation – join us July 18-20 at Trinity University in Washington, DC, and July 21 on the Hill. Register online at www.peace-action.org or call 301-565-4050. Space is limited for affordable housing, so register soon!

Peace Action National Office

Testimony of “Winter Soldiers” Now Online

This past March Iraq Veterans Against the War presented in Washington, DC the Winter Soldier hearings, a weekend of frank and emotional testimony by veterans of the Iraq war describing the experience of being a soldier there and the way that experience affected them.

You can now watch testimony at the Winter Soldier hearings by logging on to ivaw.org/wintersoldier/testimony.

International

The Elusive Iranian Weapons

From the latimes.com “Babylon & Beyond” blog, May 8
There was something interesting missing from Maj. Gen. Kevin Bergner's introductory remarks to journalists at his regular news briefing in Baghdad on Wednesday: the word “Iran,” or any form of it. It was especially striking as Bergner, the U.S. military spokesman here, announced the extraordinary list of weapons and munitions that have been uncovered in recent weeks since fighting erupted between Iraqi and U.S. security forces and Shiite militiamen.

Among other things, Bergner cited 20,000 “items of ammunition, explosives and weapons” reported by Iraqi forces in the central city of Karbala; an additional Karbala cache containing 570 explosive devices, nine mortars, four anti-aircraft missiles, and 45 RPGs; and in the southern city of Basra alone, 39 mortar tubes, 1,800 mortars and artillery rounds, 600 rockets, and 387 road-side bombs.

Not once did Bergner point the finger at Iran for any of these weapons and munitions, which is a striking change from just a couple of weeks ago when U.S. military officials here and at the Pentagon were saying that caches found in Basra in particular had revealed Iranian-made

arms manufactured as recently as this year. They say the majority of rockets being fired at U.S. bases, including Baghdad's Green Zone, are launched by militiamen receiving training, arms and other aid from Iran.

Today brought fresh attacks, including an unusual barrage fired at a military base used by British and U.S. forces in Basra, in southern Iraq. A statement said "several" rockets hit the base during the afternoon, and that initial reports indicated two civilian contractors were killed, and four soldiers and four civilians injured.

It was the first reported attack of its kind since March 27 in Basra.

Iraqi officials also have accused Iran of meddling in violence and had echoed the U.S. accusations of new Iranian-made arms being found in Basra. But neither the United States nor Iraq has displayed any of the alleged arms to the public or press, and lately it is looking less likely they will. U.S. military officials said it was up to the Iraqis to show the items; Iraqi officials lately have backed off the accusations against Iran.

A plan to show some alleged Iranian-supplied explosives to journalists last week in Karbala and then destroy them was canceled after the United States realized none of them were from Iran. A U.S. military spokesman attributed the confusion to a misunderstanding that emerged after an Iraqi Army general in Karbala erroneously reported the items were of Iranian origin.

When U.S. explosives experts went to investigate, they discovered they were not Iranian after all.

Iran, meanwhile, continues to seethe after an Iraqi delegation went to Tehran last week to confront it with the accusations. It has denied the accusations, and it says as long as U.S. forces continue to take part in military action in Iraq's Shiite strongholds, it won't consider holding further talks with Washington on how to stabilize Iraq.

Tina Susman in Baghdad

Commentary

Will the UN Save the Human Species?

Many of us ask, "Where is the United Nations when you really need power exercised to save people in need?"

We see the horrors of having a nation taken over by its military. Myanmar (Burma) has become a military organization with a state to support it rather than the other way around. One of the first results of this reality is the contempt that the military holds for the ordinary citizen. The whims and supposed needs of this self-perpetuating monstrosity come before all else. Even the religious orders of poverty-stricken Buddhist monks are considered

suspect as they actually stand with the people and not with the all-powerful military.

The corrupt government would rather proceed with a sham election to try to cement their rule than go all out to relieve the suffering of the population that gave birth to each and every member of this dysfunctional organization. It is so apparent that the grievous suffering of the cyclone victims are of absolutely no consequence. Could we in this nation ever consider ourselves as being even remotely vulnerable to a situation of this order? You had better give that thought great pause, as we indeed have seen this phenomenon quite recently on a smaller scale in the treatment of the Hurricane Katrina victims. For specifics on this Google "Katrina paramedic Larry Bradshaw."

Aside from the chaotic and nearly nonexistent response in Louisiana that most of us are aware of, there was a large group of displaced people with no way out of the flood yet were refused access to a bridge permitting safe exit. They were pushed back into the filthy waters from which no escape was afforded.

I see a strong similarity in the uncaring and paranoid behavior of the Burmese military to these sorts of brutal acts by Americans upon other Americans. So it can "happen here." By allowing the flourishing of mercenary forces such as Blackwater USA and the increase of "Private" intelligence firms, we are putting ourselves at even greater risk of this sort of brutal future.

Yet the UN, the most logical entity to look to as a remedy, appears frustrated in its efforts to redress this criminal lack of caring. In Burma, as with Darfur, Rwanda, Tibet, Palestine, Congo, Yugoslavia and all too many other places, meaningful efforts are stymied by a minority of the UN's major members. It seems the world order under the United Nations is having the same growing pains that our own nation suffered through from our founding right up into the civil rights era of the sixties. In this country "States Rights" has often collided with the needs of a more unitary Federal system that would act in some cases against the perceived interests of one of the component members. China and Russia both experiencing separatist movements might be seen as analogous to the "States Rights" folks along with ourselves, while we push against the more "Federalist" groups such as Europe, Japan and much of the rest of the world.

We in the US have done a good deal of backsliding on the issue of supporting the "Federal" system – meaning the UN. Since the unwillingness of the Clinton administration, as well as the Bush administration, to push for the outlawing of evil devices such as land mines and cluster munitions, the US has balked at any possible curtailment of any and all options that might mean subject-

ing itself to any outside supervision. The World Court, the Kyoto accords, the International Criminal Court, and numerous other multinational efforts at trying to bring some justice and just plain logic to our relations with the planet have been repeatedly rejected. Considering the worldwide crises that face us all, there is no guarantee that the Human species will be around very much longer without multilateral mechanisms to mediate our difficulties and tendencies for short-sighted and selfish behavior which may well lead to our self destruction.

Mike Caggiano

Action Alert

Two For Iran Congress Needs to Act Quickly to Prevent a War

Modified from an alert from Cleveland Peace Action; contact N. Robbins, nxr@cwru.edu

Indications that the U.S. is preparing to attack military bases in Iran:

Ever since Admiral Fallon, an opponent of war with Iran, stepped down from CENTCOM command, and since Gen David Petraeus testified before Congress, an ever-increasing chorus of administration officials have echoed the same theme: Iranian weapons and Iranian trained militia are killing Americans in Iraq.

The clearly coordinated and scripted team included Chair of the Joint Chiefs Michael Mullen, Sec. Of Defense Robert Gates, CIA Director Michael Hayden, and current and former Ambassadors to the U.N. Zalmay Khalilzad and John Bolton. These accusations have been accompanied by the introduction of a second U.S. aircraft carrier in the Gulf, a report that the National Security Council has approved plans for an attack on Iranian bases, a statement from Admiral Mullen about "potential military courses of action," a CBS report that the State Department is preparing an ultimatum for Iran, and recent joint discussions on Iran between the Israeli Defense Forces, Admiral Mike Mullen, and NATO.

How strong is the evidence for Iranian military intervention in Iraq?

The Pentagon has yet to display the Iranian weapons, has already withdrawn one such claim, and has deferred to the Iraqi government to investigate its claims, which the Iraqis had previously called "not conclusive" or "speculative" (and their President Jamal Talabani denied).

Others have pointed out that it is difficult to distinguish between smuggled and officially supplied weapons. In addition, the majority of American battles with Shiites have been with the Mahdi militia, which Iran has condemned (in favor of the Maliki government supported by the US) and which in turn has strongly criticized Iran.

Iran may assist or train Iraqi Shiites, but the extent of this assistance, if any, is unknown, and is certainly not a strong basis for attacking Iran. Ambassador Bolton recently referred to British Intelligence which said that America had exaggerated Iran's military role in Iraq. On the contrary, the Bush Administration has reportedly obtained Congressional approval for clandestine attacks within Iran – the very type of action we condemn if it were carried out by Iran within Iraq. A U.S.-labeled "terrorist" organization, the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq (MEK), is allowed to have a base in Iraq not far from the Iranian border.

Lack of public awareness of the "blowback" from an attack on Iran:

Of 10 randomly picked articles in the mainstream America media where an attack on Iran is mentioned, not one brings up what the Iranians might do in response. It is folly to plan an attack expecting that there will be no Iranian response. If they responded by attacking an American base or boat, this would precipitate a major American military response and then spiral into a major war, quite possibly involving Israel as well.

War games (e.g. Atlantic Monthly, 2004) have shown that an attack on Iran would have disastrous consequences. CBS News reported that "a large number of senior military leaders share Admiral Fallon's broad assessment that a war with Iran would bring unexpected and, perhaps, unmanageable, risks elsewhere in the Muslim world and around the globe." Gasoline prices at \$7 a gallon and more American casualties are not being considered.

It falls to Congress to question what the catastrophic consequences of a reckless attack on Iran might be. Meanwhile, the drumbeats of war are getting louder, and preventive action is ever more urgent. Once an attack is launched, there will be no way to prevent escalation.

Action: Contact Rep. Jackie Speier or Anna Eshoo, whichever is your representative, as well as Sens. Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein, to tell them:

-They should co-sponsor and Congress must immediately pass one of the many pending resolutions (e.g. S.J.Res.23, H.J. Res.14, H.J. Res.64) requiring President Bush to seek Congressional authorization before attacking Iran. Congressman John Conyers' letter, warning of impeachment proceedings if the President acts without Congress' authorization, is a good start.

-Congress should require the Congressional Research Service to provide a complete assessment of the different scenarios of consequences after a U.S. attack on Iran. The effects on U.S. gasoline and natural gas prices should also be investigated.

National Call-in Day: Tuesday, June 10

The Campaign for a New American Policy on Iran (CNAPI) is coordinating an exciting and innovative "Time to Talk with Iran" media event on the Terrace of the west side of the Canon House Office Building from 10 am until 2 pm on Tuesday, June 10. Peace Action is part of this new coalition.

With the U.S. Capitol backdrop, Members of Congress, celebrities, former officials, and other citizens visiting Capitol Hill will use a row of 60's-era red "hotline" telephones to talk directly to average Iranians in Tehran. Concurrently on June 10, the Campaign will facilitate a nationwide "Call-in to Congress for Diplomacy with Iran" for organizations with grassroots constituencies and those who cannot be in Washington.

This is a time to tell Congress we want direct dialogue, not war, with Iran.

The same people who called for attacking Iraq continue to raise the drumbeat for military action against Iran. Despite the November 2007 U.S. National Intelligence Estimate concluding that Iran had halted its nuclear weapons program, the Bush administration is bolstering its case for war by labeling Iran one of the greatest threats to American security.

Bombing Iran would bring disastrous consequences.

-The entire Middle East likely would descend into further violence putting

the well-being of innumerable civilians at risk.

-U.S. standing in the world would plummet and oil prices would soar.

-A U.S. attack would only strengthen hardliners in Iran. Current U.S. policies are not working. Threats of military attacks and regime change, while refusing to talk with Iran until they stop enriching uranium is only heightening tensions.

Action: On Tuesday, June 10th, call Rep. Jackie Speier or Anna Eshoo, whichever district you're in. Also call Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer. Tell them that you want dialogue, not war; Press for them to work for direct, unconditional, and comprehensive talks between the U.S. and Iran. Suggest that the U.S. and Iran share a common interest: a stable Iraq, Middle East and Afghanistan. We pursued negotiations with North Korea and Libya; it's time to talk with Iran.

For more information on this new coalition, log on to www.newiranpolicy.org or email

info@newiranpolicy.org. Their other contact information is: CNAPI

c/o Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation

322 4th St. NE, Washington, DC 20002

Tel: (202) 546-0795 ext. 122

Peace is Still a Local Issue

At various times local peace activists have sparred with city and county officials on the issue of whether our localities should take a stand on national issues relating to war and peace. A few years ago Peace Action of San Mateo County led a coalition in an attempt to have the City of San Mateo come out in opposition to the Iraq War and occupation; the response was a typical reluctance by the city to make a national issue a local one.

Now there is a new opportunity to engage our mayors in the struggle for peace and justice, with the support of two very good resolutions, being submitted by bold, progressive mayors, to the U.S. Conference of Mayors at its annual meeting in Miami this June 20-24. The Conference's International Affairs Committee will entertain 1) A Resolution Opposing Military Intervention in Iran and 2) A Resolution in Support of the Elimination of All Nuclear Weapons by the Year 2020.

The resolution on Iran raises points well-covered in this month's **Update**; the following is the latter measure concerning nuclear weapons:

WHEREAS, U.S. Conference of Mayors President, Akron Mayor Donald M. Plusquellic, led a delegation of U.S. mayors to the Conference of Mayors organized by Mayors for Peace, held at the United Nations in New York during the 2005 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference; and

WHEREAS, despite the recommendation of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Administration did not seek a decision by the 2005 NPT Review Conference to launch negotiations on the elimination of nuclear weapons, and the conference ended in failure; and

WHEREAS, since that time there have been no new agreed-upon measures in the field of nuclear disarmament; and

WHEREAS, contrary to its NPT obligation, in force since 1970, to "pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament," the United States is modernizing its nuclear weapons research and manufacturing complex to expand production capability and is developing new delivery systems; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 World Congress of United Cities and Local Governments endorsed "the Mayors for Peace campaign, which lobbies the international community to renounce weapons of mass destruction;" and

WHEREAS, chemical and biological weapons have been outlawed under the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention; and

WHEREAS, there is no technical or economic obstacle to the elimination of all nuclear weapons by the year 2020, and cities and the entire world should not be held

at risk of nuclear attack any longer than absolutely unavoidable; and

WHEREAS, Mayors for Peace has organized European delegations to and activities at the first two Preparatory Committee meetings for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, unveiling the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol for a nuclear-weapons-free world by the year 2020 at the most recent meeting in Geneva,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages its members to participate in the delegation and activities being organized by Mayors for Peace at the third NPT Review Conference Preparatory Committee Meeting in New York in May 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages its members to sign the Cities Appeal (annex 2) being circulated in support of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol and to encourage other elected officials in their cities to do likewise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors recommends that the United States Government urgently consider the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol as a direct means of fulfilling the promise of the NPT by the year 2020, thereby meeting the obligation found by the International Court of Justice in 1996 “to conclude negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors agrees to take up this matter at the 2009 June Conference of Mayors in Providence, RI.

The passage of these two resolutions will depend on getting as many co-sponsors as possible going into the meeting. Our mayors here on the peninsula may not even know about them, let alone considering co-sponsoring. We can help educate and encourage them on the idea of raising a voice for peace from the local level.

Action: Contact your mayor (a few names and numbers are below, go to samateopeaceaction.org and link to Action Alerts for a complete list) and ask him/her to co-sponsor both the resolution opposing military intervention in Iran and the resolution in support of elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

(At the same time, you can also invite your mayor to join Mayors for Peace, an international organization headed by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with more than 2,200 members in 129 countries. Our U.S. membership currently stands at 124, including the mayors of San Francisco and Palo Alto but none in between. Information on joining is available at www.mayorsforpeace.org.) Emphasize that while grassroots efforts play an important part in stopping an Iran invasion or the spread of nuclear weapons, local governments coming together

can also have a big impact toward such goals...and an important result may well be more money for cities.

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The **Update** is published monthly by Peace Action of San Mateo County. We welcome all submissions and letters, and reserve the right to exclude or edit for content and other considerations. The views expressed within are not necessarily those of the members of Peace Action of San Mateo County, California Peace Action, or Peace Action.



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Peace Action of San Mateo County
presents a free screening of the 2002
documentary film

The Trials of Henry Kissinger

"Sometimes statesmen have to choose among
evils." -*Henry Kissinger*

"The dark side of Henry Kissinger is very, very
dark." -*Seymour Hersh*

"Mass murderer or pragmatist: you make the call."
-*line from the film*

Tuesday June 24, 7 PM

Beck Hall, Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo
300 E. Santa Inez Ave. (at Ellsworth), San Mateo

Also: National call-in day, Tuesday, June 10:

Dialogue, not war, with Iran!

See this month's Action Alert