THE HISTORICAL DIMENSIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA’S NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM

Intundla Lodge, Pretoria, South Africa
9 – 12 December 2012

Sunday 9 December 2012

8 - 19:00  Arrival of participants
13:00  Lunch
19:00  Dinner

Monday 10 December 2012

7:30 - 8:30  Breakfast
8:30 - 8:35  Welcome
Dina Burger
(Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor: Research, Monash South Africa)
8:35 - 9:00  Opening
Anna-Mart van Wyk
Christian Ostermann
Leopoldo Nuti
9:00 - 9:15  Rene Geyer
The state of affairs vis-a-vis South African archival research
9:15 - 9:25  Comfort break

SESSION 1:  THE DECISION TO GO NUCLEAR: REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLITICAL CONTEXT

Chair:  Christian Ostermann

9:25 - 11:25  Chris Saunders
The Regional Context, an Overview, c.1960-1980
Sue Onslow
Ways of Warfare: South Africa and regional liberation struggles 1960s-1980s

David Holloway
Nuclear Weapons and the Pariah State: South Africa in the Cold War

11:25 - 11:45  Coffee Break

SESSION 2:  THE WEAPONS PROGRAM

Chair:  Leonard Weiss

11:45 - 13:00  Johan Slabber
The development of explosives: A glimpse behind the scenes
13:00 - 14:00  Lunch

SESSION 3:  THE KALAHARI AND VELA INCIDENTS

Chair:  David Holloway

14:00 - 16:00  Jim Hershberg
Eighteen Days - The South African Nuclear Crisis of August 1977
Frank Pabian
The Kalahari (Vastrap) Nuclear Test Site: South Africa's "Ace in the Hole"
Leonard Weiss
The Vela Event (Or the Israeli Nuclear Test) of 1979
Avner Cohen
The 1979 VELA Mystery: A Plausible Israeli Narrative

16:00 - 19:00  Coffee Break and Free Time
19:00  Dinner in Boma area (weather permitting)
Tuesday 11 December 2012

7:00 - 8:30 Breakfast

SESSION 4: INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS, PART I

Chair: Sue Onslow

8:30 - 10:15 Mara Drogan
*A White Man's Club: Atoms for Peace in South Africa*

Lucky Asuelime
*Uranium Politics of Gatekeeping: Revisiting the British Government's policy vis-a-vis South Africa, 1945-1951*

Sasha Polakow-Suransky
*The atomic bond: Israel and South Africa, 1960-1993*

Ori Rabinowitz
*South Africa's bargain on nuclear testing*

10:15 - 10:30 Coffee Break

SESSION 5: INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS, PART II

Chair: Leopoldo Nuti

10:30 - 12:15 Sam Rajiv
*Challenging Contexts: South Africa and India's Nuclear Tests*

Elisabeth Röhrlich
*The IAEA and the International Debate on South Africa's Nuclear Capabilities, 1977-1985*

Carlo Patti
*The forbidden cooperation: South Africa-Brazil nuclear relations at the turn of the 1980s*

Mohammed Homayounvash
*The Evolution of Iran-South Africa Nuclear Relations from the 1970's to the 2000's*

12:15 - 13:00 Lunch

SESSION 6: INTO AN ERA OF ACCOUNTABILITY: PART 1

Chair: Jim Hershberg

13:00 - 14:30 Jo-Ansie van Wyk
*South Africa and the NPT, 1968-1991*

Victor Zazeraj
*From the Bomb to the Plough-Share*

14:30 - 14:45 Coffee Break

SESSION 7: INTO AN ERA OF ACCOUNTABILITY: PART 2

Chair: Jean du Preez

14:45 - 15:45 Frank Pabian
*The South African De-nuclearization Exemplar: Insights for Nonproliferation*

Geoffry Heald
*The Interrelationship Between South Africa's Nuclear Relinquishment and Accession to the NPT and its Constitutional Negotiations*

15:45 - 16:15 Closing remarks

19:00 Dinner

Wednesday 12 December 2012

7 - 7:45 Breakfast

7:45 - 8:30 Transfer to Dinokeng Game Park

9 - 12:00 Safari in Dinokeng Big Five Game Park

12 - 13:00 Transfer to Intundla

13 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 Departure to Hatfield Gautrain Station and OR Tambo Airport

12:15 - 13:00 Lunch