

# Los Alamos Study Group

PRESS ADVISORY

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## **Local Disarmament Advocates Denied Entrance to Lab Global Planning Meeting Lab Stiffs Public & Senator, Insists on Privacy in Planning Global Futures**

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Local disarmament advocates belonging to the Los Alamos Study Group were denied entrance this morning to a Lab workshop called "Securing the Nuclear Future," held today and tomorrow at Fuller Lodge in Los Alamos. The workshop will bring decisionmakers and analysts from around the country and from three other nuclear weapons countries to map practical steps "to strengthen Los Alamos" and "secure the nuclear future." This workshop will deal with nuclear weapons specifically, including topics such as cross-national collaboration among nuclear weapons scientists in different countries. The workshop will not discuss classified information.

Until today, activists were denied a list of attendees (attached).

Requests from Senator Bingaman's office to open the meeting were denied, according to Leroy Apodaca of LANL.

"The workshop, held in a public place and sponsored by a public university, uses public money to plan how to influence public policy in this country and abroad. To what purpose? Conspicuously, to 'strengthen Los Alamos.' Our nuclear weapons experts seem to think they must destroy democracy in order to save it," said Greg Mello, Study Group Director. "Gone are any ideas about openness, about academic freedom, about public accountability, and about the University of California being a good neighbor in New Mexico."

"Why are foreign nationals allowed to attend this workshop, and not U.S. citizens?" asked Karin Salzmann, Study Group President.

Members of the Los Alamos Study Group have been studying the U.S. nuclear weapons laboratories since 1989, and have travelled and written extensively on the conversion of the labs to civilian missions and on ways to end the nuclear momentum left over from the Cold War. The purpose and expertise of the Group lie exactly in the areas covered by the workshop.

"Denying entrance to representatives of the public to this meeting underscores how deep the current of self-serving secrecy runs in Los Alamos. Nuclear technologies threaten democracy far more than they do the environment--which is a lot--and, unless they are opened to public participation and democratic control, they will breed a virulent form of nuclear tyranny." concluded Mello.

Something Thomas Jefferson once said is apt:

I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves, and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise that control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion.

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