

URL: <https://stvp.stanford.edu/blog/videos/innovative-solutions-for-dealing-with-security-issues>

Perry observes that one of the ways to tackle security issues is to hold back proliferation and try to get major nuclear powers to start decreasing their nuclear weapons. He also notes that the danger of nuclear weapons today is greater than ever before, and we should continue to redouble our efforts to try to find ways of eliminating them.



## Transcript

First of all, when I was the Secretary of Defense I made a special visit to Pakistan and to India pleading with them not to test and deploy the nuclear weapons arguing not so much that it would be bad for the world which I thought it would be, but I thought it would be make it more dangerous for themselves or likely one of those countries at South will be confronted with the nuclear attack.. Obviously, I lost that argument.. I was not able to persuade them not to do it.. So Pakistan and India did go ahead with the nuclear weapon program.. Now, we're confronted with so another countries who want to go nuclear North Korea and Iran in particular.. If those two countries additionally go nuclear, I think the floodgates are opened and we've lost any ability to control nuclear weapons.. And if that happen, the probability of that being used in our country and in other countries, I think, it becomes very high.. So I think it's a very bad development but I'm still in terms of attack what to do about it might actually still trying to hold back the proliferation and trying to get the major nuclear powers, United States and Russia to try decreasing the nuclear weapons that they have.. Last September, we had a conference here at Stanford.. It was hosted by George Schultz who had been the Secretary of State during the Reagan administration..

And the conference was held on the 20th anniversary of the so-called Reykjavik Summit.. You've probably have not heard of Reykjavik Summit but a little more than 20 years ago, there was a summit meeting between President Reagan and President Gorbachev of the then Soviet Union.. And at that meeting, the two presidents actually discussed completely eliminating nuclear weapons and the missiles which levered them.. It was the only time at a major conference of that sort was even discussed.. Now, the bad news is they were not able to come to an agreement that founded actually on technical details which is I think too bad.. But in any event they were not able to come to an agreement.. And most people consider this Reykjavik Summit a failure.. But Schultz and I thought the ideas that were advanced in Reykjavik were fundamentally input and therefore we had this conference on the 20th anniversary to ask the question "Can we revive the division of Reykjavik? And the answer we came up to that meeting was, "Yes." We followed it up with an op-ed piece in the Wall Street Journal arguing to do that and arguing steps that need to be taken in order to get there.. That op-ed piece got very strong and positive response.. It was signed by the way, besides Secretary Schultz, by myself, Henry Kissinger, and Senator Sam Nunn..

All of them spent much of their career developing and promoting nuclear weapons and now these are the four people coming out at this is the time to totally eliminate the nuclear weapons in the world.. And I laid out a series of 10 steps that had to be taken to do that.. This fall we're going to be having another conference and for the preps for that conference is to have detailed thoughtful papers on each of those 10 steps, what it takes to actually accomplish those steps one a time.. And I'm expecting significant and positive results from that meeting.. So the short answer to the question is the nuclear danger is greater than ever today and we should continue to redouble our efforts to try to find ways of eliminating nuclear weapons in Pakistan, in India, in North Korea, and in United States and Russia...