

Hecker really describing a new form of “scientific nuclear diplomacy,” or is he advocating for more politicization of the already difficult politics of nuclear weapons?

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■ **In the interesting** feature article by Sig Hecker, figure 3 caught my eye. The caption attributes the drawings to an unnamed Russian. I’m certain they are drawings by Jean Effel, French illustrator and caricaturist (and Communist) who was quite popular in the Soviet Union in the 1960s. I have a book of drawings that was published in the Soviet Union in 1963, and while it does not contain the specific drawing presented in the figure, I find the style unmistakable.

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■ **Hecker replies:** Irvin Lindemuth is correct in urging the Obama administration to redouble its efforts to rejuvenate US–Russia lab-to-lab nuclear cooperation. It is tragic that now, more than 15 years after Presidential Decision Directive PDD/NSC-47, we have fewer collaborations despite stockpile challenges after 20 years without nuclear testing and the need for deeper reductions of the nuclear arsenals on both sides.

Alexander DeVolpi rightly points out the essential contributions of US non-government organizations and individuals to nuclear scientific diplomacy with the Soviet Union. In addition to the ones he names, individuals from MIT, Harvard and Stanford Universities, and the National Academy of Sciences Committee on International Security and Arms Control contributed, as did individuals from the Russian Academy of Sciences. Those organizations and individuals prepared the path for the Nunn–Lugar legislation. Early visits to the Russian nuclear weapons institutes by DeVolpi and some of my Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore colleagues should be similarly commended.

I find it unfortunate that DeVolpi appears to lay much of the blame for the cold war and the difficult post–cold war transition on the weapons labs. I was director at Los Alamos during the transition, and I believe we did a commendable job in meeting our primary responsibility of a safe, secure, and reliable nuclear stockpile while reaching out to our Russian counterparts as soon as we felt the cold war’s thaw. The collaborations allowed scientists such as



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