



NUCLEAR AGE PEACE FOUNDATION

Committed to a World Free of Nuclear Weapons

For Immediate Release:

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California Peace and Anti-Nuclear Groups Condemn US Nuclear Missile Launch

Santa Barbara, California – On June 29, 2009, the United States plans to launch a Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The missile will likely carry one or more “unarmed” warheads to the Ronald Reagan Test Site in the Kwajalein atoll in the Marshall Islands.

The Minuteman III missile is named after the Minutemen of the Revolutionary War and for its ability to be fired within minutes of an order to do so. Both the United States and Russia maintain thousands of nuclear weapons on this hair-trigger alert status nearly two decades after the end of the Cold War.

Many individuals and peace groups see the tests as provocative and illustrative of a dangerous international double standard.

“It is striking that just weeks after condemning a missile test by North Korea, the United States is performing a test of a nuclear-capable long-range missile,” said David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. “Reinforcing such double standards will not help us reach President Obama’s stated goal of a world without nuclear weapons.”

Peace and anti-nuclear groups active in California and nationally, including Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los Angeles, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Western States Legal Foundation, and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation also call attention to the devastation endured by the people of the Marshall Islands due to United States nuclear-related tests.

In addition to the Marshall Islands hosting the Ronald Reagan Test Site, it was the site of 67 atomic and hydrogen bomb tests over a 12-year period from 1946-1958. The total yield of these tests was equivalent to 1.6 Hiroshima-sized bombs *per day* for 12 years.

The aforementioned groups call on the United States government to cancel this and subsequent ICBM tests in recognition of the double standards implicit in these actions. They also call on the

United States, and all countries possessing nuclear weapons, to end their reliance on catastrophically dangerous weapons.

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Notes to Editor:

1. For further comment, including a critique of the theory of deterrence in the modern era, contact David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation at dkrieger@napf.org or (805) 965-3443.
2. A rally to protest the Minuteman III missile launch will take place at the front gate of Vandenberg Air Force Base starting at 12:01 am on June 29. Speakers at the rally include Andrew Lichterman of the Western States Legal Foundation (www.wslfweb.org).