Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, founded in 1982, is a non-profit, non-partisan international organization, which seeks to educate the public through its programs and publications.

The Foundation is dedicated to providing leadership toward a nuclear weapons free world; establishing a permanent International Criminal Court and strengthening international law; teaching peace; promoting nonviolent resolution of conflicts; and creating a world based upon liberty, justice, and human dignity.

The Foundation is a non-governmental affiliate of the United Nations and is recognized by that body as a Peace Messenger Organization.

Waging Peace Series

As far as is known, the term "Waging Peace" originated with Warren Wells of Santa Barbara, late husband of Ethel Wells, in a letter to President Eisenhower. It was a long-standing practice of Mr. Wells to keep in close touch with key national figures and give them his views on peace issues as well as other vital matters. This series is dedicated both as a memorial to him and in gratitude to Mrs. Wells for her continued efforts in this cause.

In this series the Foundation publishes and distributes short booklets stressing ideas for attaining peace. Concepts expressed will include views of many authorities, and will not necessarily be those of the Foundation. Suggestions for topics and ideas about this issue are welcome. Booklets in this series and two anthologies of Waging Peace booklets are available from the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

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Creating a Nuclear Weapons Free World

A Guide for Students and All Concerned Citizens

"I speak of peace because of the new face of war. Total war makes no sense in an age when great powers can maintain large and relatively invulnerable nuclear forces and refuse to surrender without resort to those forces. It makes no sense in an age when a single nuclear weapon contains almost ten times the explosive force delivered by all of the allied air forces in the Second World War. It makes no sense in an age when the deadly poisons produced by a nuclear exchange would be carried by wind and water and soil and seed to the far corners of the globe and to generations yet unborn."

—John F. Kennedy

"In matters of preserving peace and saving mankind from the threat of nuclear war, let no one remain indifferent or stand aloof: This concerns all and everyone. Each state, large or small, socialist or capitalist, has an important contribution to make. Every responsible political party, every public organization and every person can also make an important contribution."

—Mikhail Gorbachev

PEACE
Introduction

To create a nuclear weapons free world would be a great triumph for the human species. Now is the time, in the aftermath of the Cold War, to eliminate these instruments of genocide from the Earth. You can help to make this happen.

Because a terrible weapon of mass destruction has been invented does not mean that it must be maintained. There have already been agreements to prohibit and eliminate biological and chemical weapons. Governments throughout the world could also agree to the total abolition of nuclear weapons. For governments to reach such an agreement, however, will require considerable pressure from their citizens.

One of the great enemies of change is the belief that a single individual cannot make a difference, and therefore it is not worth even trying to achieve change. Actually, the belief that an individual cannot make a difference is completely wrong. Every great idea must originate with someone, and bringing a great idea to fruition requires the efforts of many people. Each person can contribute; each person can make a difference.

On June 4, 1996, the U.S. Secretary of Defense met with the Defense Ministers of Russia and Ukraine to celebrate Ukraine’s change in status from the world’s third largest nuclear weapons state to a nuclear weapon free state. On the occasion, these defense leaders planted sunflowers and scattered sunflower seeds on a former Ukrainian missile base that once housed eighty SS-19 missiles aimed at the United States. U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry said, “Sunflowers instead of missiles in the soil would insure peace for future generations.” Certainly he is right about this.

Sunflowers have become the symbol of a world free of nuclear weapons. Abolition 2000, a global network to eliminate nuclear weapons, composed of over 700 citizen action groups on six continents, has called for an international treaty by the year 2000 to eliminate all nuclear weapons from the Earth within a timebound framework. Adherents of Abolition 2000 believe that we should enter the new millennium with a treaty in place to end the nuclear weapons era. We should no longer have

“The nuclear weapon is obsolete. I want to get rid of them all.”
- General Charles A. Horner
Former commander of U.S. Space Command

“Can a consensus be forged that nuclear weapons have no defensible role, that the political and human consequences of their employment transcend any asserted military utility, that as weapons of mass destruction, the case for their elimination is a thousand-fold stronger and more urgent than for deadly chemicals and viruses already widely declared illegitimate, subject to destruction and prohibited from any future production?...I believe that such a consensus is not only possible, it is imperative, and is in fact growing daily.”
- General Lee Butler
Former commander-in-chief of U.S. Strategic Command

“I can declare my hope, declare it from the bottom of my heart, that we will eventually see the time when [the] number of nuclear weapons is down to zero and the world is a much better place.”
- General Colin Powell
Former Chairman of U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff
to live in a world in which some nations base their security on threatening the security of the entire planet. Such a world order is dangerous, costly and inherently unstable. It must be brought to an end by abolishing all nuclear weapons.

Sunflowers represent the power of the sun. They are bright and joyful. They are healthy and nourishing. Native Americans used them to make breads and dyes. They are natural. They grow from the Earth. In short, sunflowers represent everything that nuclear weapons do not. They are a force of life rather than instruments of death. They provide hope for a positive future rather than despair. Every time you see a sunflower, I hope that you will remember that a nuclear weapons free world is possible and that you will be inspired to help create such a world.

This booklet was prepared by college interns at the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. It is filled with important information to help you understand the dangers of nuclear weapons, and the great challenge to all of us to abolish these instruments of genocide. It provides ideas for action and resources for further study and involvement. It can open the door to your own involvement in one of the most important issues of our time.

Great changes have occurred in human history. In the past, heretics were burned at the stake, and cannibalism and slavery were common practices. Today these practices shock our consciences. The threat or use of nuclear weapons, which are capable of incinerating entire cities and ending human civilization and much of life on Earth, should equally shock us. Someday in the future people will look back and consider the reliance on nuclear weapons in the same category as slavery, cannibalism and the burning of heretics. I believe that history will honor those persons who worked to rid the world of these dangerous instruments that threaten to annihilate our species and most other forms of life on Earth. You have the opportunity to join in this great effort to create a safer, saner, and more decent world. I encourage you to accept the challenge.

David Krieger, President
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Creating a Nuclear Weapons Free World

One of the chief characteristics of the Cold War era (1945-1990) was a dangerous and costly nuclear arms race between the United States and the former Soviet Union. Today the Cold War has ended, but nuclear arsenals remain.

This booklet is about creating a nuclear weapons free world by abolishing all nuclear weapons. Abolition does not mean unilateral nuclear disarmament. It requires an international agreement by all nuclear weapons states to prohibit nuclear weapons and eliminate them from their arsenals in an orderly way subject to international control and verification.

The issue of abolishing nuclear weapons seems to have slipped out of public consciousness at precisely the time when the elimination of nuclear weapons is possible. Public pressure for eliminating nuclear arms can realistically bring about a shift in the attitudes of the leaders of nuclear weapons states. The people of the world must demand that the governments of the nuclear weapons states begin negotiations for abolishing nuclear weapons.

Young people must join in this worldwide effort. Young people must not only fight for a healthy environment and human rights, but also for nuclear weapons abolition. Indeed, as long as nuclear weapons exist, a healthy environment and true human rights will never be fully realized.

In this booklet we present background on important events concerning nuclear weapons abolition, some myths about nuclear weapons, some facts about them, and, most importantly, what action you can take to make a difference.

Background on Nuclear Weapons Abolition

Abolition 2000 Network

Abolition 2000 is a global network of more than 700 citizen action groups from around the world that endorse the Abolition 2000 Statement (see Appendix A). The network grew from an abolition caucus at the 1995 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review and Extension Conference. Abolition 2000 is currently a major citizens’ voice in the global movement for nuclear weapons abolition. It calls on nuclear weapons states to complete negotiations by the year 2000 for eliminating their nuclear arsenals within a timebound framework. It also calls for many steps to be taken immediately to reduce the nuclear threat.
At the Abolition 2000 Conference in Tahiti in January 1997, the Moorea Declaration was adopted (see Appendix B). This Declaration affirmed that indigenous and colonized peoples, who have suffered as a result of the production and testing of nuclear weapons, must be central to the planning and monitoring of the abolition of these weapons.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)

A Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty has been a major goal of arms control and disarmament advocates for 40 years. Expectations were that the treaty would cut off nuclear weapons development and lead to the elimination of the world’s nuclear arsenals. Nuclear tests are conducted mainly to design new weapons or improve existing models.

In September 1996, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which has now been signed by the United States and approximately 140 other countries. However, in order to “enter into force” the Treaty requires ratification by all 44 countries that have either nuclear power or research reactors — and are thus nuclear weapon capable. These include the so-called “threshold” states, India, Pakistan and Israel.

The CTBT does not define a nuclear test, but is understood to ban nuclear explosions with measurable fission yields. The U.S. has announced plans to invest $40 billion over the next decade in a massive new program, called “Stockpile Stewardship,” to replace underground testing with sophisticated laboratory experiments and computer simulations. The other “declared” nuclear weapons states, Russia, France, Britain and China have similar programs. This will severely curtail the arms control benefits of the CTBT and damage prospects for its entry into force.

India has said that it will not sign the CTBT without a meaningful commitment to nuclear disarmament by the nuclear weapons states. India’s argument is that banning nuclear testing under the CTBT while allowing the nuclear weapons states to maintain their existing arsenals and develop new designs by other means unfairly prolongs their nuclear hegemony.

India’s position supports the theory that the current situation in which possession of nuclear weapons is limited to an exclusive “club” is inherently unstable. If the nuclear weapons states continue to brandish nuclear weapons as symbols of power, eventually others will want to have them. Unless nuclear weapons are abolished universally, it is likely that they will spread to even more countries.

The Canberra Commission Report

In November 1995 the Australian government set up a prestigious international commission charged with developing a concrete, realistic plan for eliminating nuclear weapons. Members of the Commission included General Lee Butler, former Commander of the U.S. Strategic Command; Field Marshal Michael Carver, a former British Chief of Defence Staff; Michel Rocard, former French Prime Minister; Robert McNamara, former U.S. Secretary of Defense; Qian Jiadong, former Chinese Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs; Roald Sagardeev, former Science Advisor to President Gorbachev; Joseph Rotblat, President of the Pugwash Conferences and 1995 Nobel Peace Laureate; Ryukichi Imai, Counselor to the Atomic Energy Commission of Japan; and the late Jacques Cousteau, ocean explorer and environmentalist.

The Canberra Commission released its report in August 1996. The opening statement of the 90-page report states:

The destructiveness of nuclear weapons is immense. Any use would be catastrophic.

Nuclear weapons pose an intolerable threat to humanity and its habitat, yet tens of thousands remain in arsenals built up at an extraordinary time of deep antagonism. The time has passed, yet assertions of their utility continue.

These facts are obvious but their implications are blurred. There is no doubt that, if the peoples of the world were more fully aware of the inherent danger of nuclear weapons and the consequences of their use, they would reject them, and not permit their continued possession or acquisition on their behalf by their governments, even for an alleged need for self-defense.

Nuclear weapons are held by a handful of states which insist that these weapons provide security benefits, and yet reserve uniquely to themselves the right to own them. This situation is highly discriminatory and thus unstable; it cannot be sustained. The possession of nuclear weapons by any state is a constant stimulus to other states to acquire them.

The world faces threats of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism. These threats are growing. They must be removed.

For these reasons, a central reality is that nuclear weapons diminish the security of all states. Indeed, states which possess them become themselves targets of nuclear weapons.

The opportunity now exists, perhaps without precedent
or recurrence, to make a new and clear choice to enable the world to conduct its affairs without nuclear weapons and in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The members of the Canberra Commission call upon the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China to give the lead by committing themselves, unequivocally, to the elimination of all nuclear weapons. Such a commitment would propel the process in the most direct and imaginative way. All other governments must join this commitment and contribute to its fulfillment.

A nuclear weapons free world can be secured and maintained through political commitment, and anchored in an enduring and binding legal framework. (Emphasis added.)

The Commission called for the following steps by nuclear weapons states that could be taken immediately to reduce the dangers of nuclear war: take nuclear forces off alert; remove warheads from delivery vehicles; end deployment of non-strategic nuclear weapons; end nuclear testing; initiate negotiations to further reduce U.S. and Russian arsenals; and agree to no first-use of nuclear weapons and non-use against nuclear weapons states.


The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

The Non-Proliferation Treaty came into force in 1970 and has now been signed by 186 countries. It has a twofold purpose. Those who do not possess nuclear weapons are obligated to refrain from obtaining them, and those who have nuclear weapons are obligated to achieve disarmament. At this time only one of the two aims has been fulfilled. Those who signed the NPT and were non-nuclear have remained so (with the possible exception of North Korea). Those who were nuclear (the five declared nuclear weapons states), however, are still far from having eliminated their nuclear weapons.

In 1995, a Non-Proliferation Treaty Review and Extension Conference was held. A high level of tension prevailed between delegates from nuclear weapons states (and their allies) and the non-nuclear weapons states. The nuclear weapons states managed to attain the necessary votes to extend the NPT indefinitely, even though many states felt that satisfactory progress had not been made toward abolition.

The absence of a commitment to agree to a timetable for abolition among the nuclear armed states does not bode well for the NPT's future. Eventually nations will decide to withdraw from the NPT if the nuclear weapons states do not meet their obligations to eliminate their nuclear arsenals. Another weakness of the NPT is that it does not include Israel, India and Pakistan, the three threshold nuclear states (states understood to possess nuclear arsenals).

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties (START I and II)

START I was signed in 1991 and entered into force in 1994. It reduced Russian and U.S. strategic nuclear warheads by approximately 30 percent. The Russian arsenal was reduced to 7,000 strategic warheads and the U.S. 9,000.

START II was signed January 3, 1993, when President Boris Yeltsin met with President George Bush. The new package, designed to go further than START I, instituted deeper cuts to 3,500 strategic warheads each by the year 2003.

These reductions, while significant, can be deceptive. It takes only a thousand nuclear warheads to bring about a Nuclear Winter. Even after all treaty provisions are implemented, each country will still have enough nuclear weapons left to destroy the planet several times over. Further, these agreements do not include many thousands of tactical nuclear weapons (smaller nuclear bombs designed for use on a battlefield).

Perhaps the worst feature of these treaties is that they do not limit the number of warheads that might be stored away without being deployed, that is, aimed and ready to launch. Each side currently has about 10,000 nuclear warheads. The bottom line is that, even after START I and II, the number of deployed strategic nuclear weapons on the planet will be over 7,500, more than enough to threaten annihilation of our species and most other forms of life on the planet.

The International Court of Justice (World Court) Ruling on the Legality of Nuclear Weapons

In 1995 the International Court of Justice in The Hague held hearings on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. At these hearings the nuclear weapons states argued that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is not inherently illegal. The majority of states presenting positions to the Court argued that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is illegal under international law.

The Court issued its opinion on July 8, 1996. It found that the threat or use of nuclear weapons was generally illegal under international law and that the nuclear weapon states are obligated to complete negotiations on
nuclear disarmament in all its aspects. The Court was unable to reach a conclusion on whether or not the threat or use of nuclear weapons for self-defense would be legal in the extreme circumstance when the survival of a state was at stake.

The World Court's opinion bolsters the argument for abolition. International law now dictates that nuclear weapons should be eliminated and that nuclear weapons states take immediate steps towards accomplishing that end. The ruling is another very significant addition to the many reasons that already exist for ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

**Nuclear Weapons Myths**

**Myth: Nuclear weapons prevent wars.**

Nuclear weapons certainly have NOT prevented wars between nuclear weapons states and non-nuclear weapons states. Nuclear weapons states have been involved in more wars than non-nuclear weapons states. Between 1945 and 1997, nuclear weapons states have fought in an average of 5.2 wars, while non-nuclear weapons states averaged about 0.67 wars.

**Myth: Nuclear weapons have prevented a large-scale conflict between major powers (specifically between the U.S. and the former USSR).**

Though there have not been any world wars since the development and use of nuclear weapons, this is not proof that nuclear weapons have been responsible for keeping the peace. It is unclear that any of the major powers wanted to fight on a large scale with each other. According to the Canberra Commission, the idea that the former Soviet Union was plotting to invade Europe is open to question in light of recent investigations made possible due to the end of the Cold War. The horrific experiences of World War II, in which some 40 to 50 million people died, had convinced leaders in both the East and the West that another world war should be avoided at almost any price.

Some even claim that the presence of nuclear weapons in war-prone regions such as India and Pakistan has introduced caution and served as a stabilizing force. Others suggest, however, that Pakistan's acquisition of a nuclear capability has hardened its resolve not to settle the Kashmir crisis and allowed it to feel safe behind a “nuclear shield” as it supports Kashmiri militancy.

If the only use of nuclear weapons is to deter enemy use of nuclear weapons, then the best way to end the threat of nuclear war is to eliminate these weapons altogether.

**Myth: Nuclear weapons are a cheap form of defense.**

Nuclear weapons are relatively inexpensive to produce, but when costs of research, development, testing, deployment, maintenance and associated intelligence activities are combined, the price tag is hefty. Since the early 1940s, the U.S. alone has spent over $4 trillion on nuclear arms. Note that this is the approximate size of the U.S. national debt! If current policies are implemented, the U.S. will continue to spend some $25 - $30 billion per year on its nuclear forces. Consider the fact that the U.S. government has allocated $27 billion for education, and $17 billion for housing assistance for 1997. What is more important — educational assistance or bombs that can incinerate millions of people? As we consider the cost of nuclear weapons, we should also keep in mind that one in seven individuals in the U.S. lives below the poverty line, and some 30 million U.S. citizens are without adequate medical insurance.

**Myth: Countries are unwilling to give up nuclear weapons.**

Three former Soviet republics, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, became nuclear weapons free states by voluntarily transferring their nuclear warheads to Russia after the breakup of the Soviet Union. South Africa actually developed a small nuclear arsenal clandestinely, and then dismantled it. Argentina and Brazil have also eliminated their nuclear weapons programs even though they achieved initial success in these programs.

**Facts Everyone Should Know in the Nuclear Age**

Nuclear weapons were first used in World War II. The U.S. dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945, respectively. When “Little Boy” (Hiroshima) and “Fat Man” (Nagasaki) exploded, all buildings within a mile and a half radius of the hypocenter were leveled nearly instantaneously. As the explosion mushroomed, about ten square miles were destroyed completely in each city. By the end of 1945, approximately 220,000 people had died as a result of these bombs.

*Today’s nuclear weapons are vastly more destructive than the ones that were used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The hydrogen or fusion bomb is the successor to the atomic or fission bomb. The explosive yield of Hiroshima’s “Little Boy” was equivalent to 12-15 kilotons (12-15 thousand tons) of TNT. Nagasaki’s “Fat Man” was slightly larger at 20-22 kilotons. The maximum explosive yield of a hydrogen bomb actually
tested was equivalent to 58 megatons (58 million tons) of TNT.

* 

The number of human beings killed immediately at Hiroshima was about 90,000, and at Nagasaki about 40,000. In the aftermath, the surviving victims suffered from ailments which have been categorized under two broad headings:

Short-term Acute Injuries. External wounds, burns, and radiation sicknesses such as epilation, hemorrhagic diathesis, oral and pharyngeal lesions and leukopenia.


The total number of people who endured these medical problems or died later from them is nearly 600,000 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined.

Some one million people or more could die instantly from a single average yield (300 kiloton) nuclear bomb if it were to explode over a major city. The current global stockpile of nuclear weapons exceeds 20,000. That amounts to one ton of TNT for each woman, man and child on the planet. Even with complete implementation of the START agreements between Russia and the United States (expected in 2003), there will still be more than 7,500 deployed strategic nuclear weapons left, along with many thousands more tactical and “reserve” nuclear weapons.

* 

Dr. Bernard Lown, a founder of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), the organization that received the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize, has characterized the legacy of nuclear weapons as “a kind of secret, low-intensity radioactive warfare... waged against unsuspecting populations.” Indigenous peoples have suffered disproportionately from the devastating health, environmental, economic and cultural impacts resulting from uranium mining, nuclear testing, dumping of radioactive waste, and theft of native lands to support the nuclear infrastructure.

* 

Environmental damage lingers for decades if not centuries after nuclear explosions. Vegetation in Bikini Island, a late-1940s U.S. nuclear weapons test site, still remains toxic, and on Moruroa Atoll, French underground tests have damaged fragile coral reefs. A 1991 study by the IPPNW predicts that radiation from atmospheric testing will eventually have caused 2.4 million deaths from cancer.

Testing and production of nuclear weapons have already destroyed major ecosystems around the world. In the former USSR, Lake Karachai in the Southern Urals is thought to be the most contaminated body of water on Earth—it is so radioactive that a person who stood on its shores for just one hour would receive a lethal dose of radiation. The nuclear weapons research, testing, and production complex in the United States consists of some 19 sites around the country occupying more than 3,900 square miles — more than the total land area of Delaware, Rhode Island and the District of Columbia combined. The Department of Energy (DOE) has conservatively estimated that the federal government will be required to spend $230 billion over the next 75 years to “cleanup” the existing mess. Yet a current DOE planning document indicates that more wastes will be generated by nuclear weapons related activities over the next two decades than from the cleanup of past activities.

* 

The five declared (openly announced) nuclear weapons states are: United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, and China.

The three threshold nuclear weapons states are: Israel, India, and Pakistan.

Nations thought to be eager to acquire nuclear weapons include Iran, Iraq, Libya, and North Korea.

More Reasons For Nuclear Weapons Abolition

The entire world would be more secure if the planet were nuclear weapons free.

• Nuclear weapons are the only type of weapon in existence that have the capacity to annihilate the human and countless other species.

• The very existence of nuclear weapons leaves open the possibility that a nuclear exchange might take place. This could happen intentionally, inadvertently (as in the Cuban Missile Crisis when the U.S. and USSR almost blundered into nuclear war), or by an accidental launch. The list of historical false alarms is long; for instance, in 1979 someone fed a war game simulation into a North American Air Defense computer. Thinking that the alert was real, fighter planes were scrambled and nuclear bombers were readied before the error was discovered.

• In the absence of total nuclear disarmament, terrorists might acquire
nuclear weapons. Such a scenario has become more probable since the USSR dissolved. There have been many reports of attempts to smuggle weapons-grade plutonium from Russia.

- Without abolition, there is always the danger that nuclear weapons will proliferate—that more and more countries will obtain them. It is ultimately unrealistic to expect that in a world in which some nations rely upon nuclear weapons, other nations will not seek to attain them. A world where there are many nuclear-armed countries would be even more dangerous.

- The end of the Cold War has meant that there are no more nuclear-armed opponents, except India and Pakistan. Nuclear weapons do not serve even an arguable purpose when a country has friendly relations with a former opponent.

The threat or use of nuclear weapons has been declared generally illegal by the World Court.

The July 8, 1996 decision of the International Court of Justice stated that it is generally illegal to use or to threaten to use nuclear weapons. From a legal point of view, it would be virtually impossible to use nuclear weapons without violating the laws of armed conflict. The International Security and Arms Control Committee of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences concluded that “the inherent destructiveness of nuclear weapons, combined with the unavoidable risk that even the most restricted use of such weapons would escalate to broader attacks, makes it extremely unlikely that any contemplated threat or use of nuclear weapons would meet these [the Court's] criteria.” If nuclear armed nations are serious about upholding international law, they ought to immediately commence negotiations for eliminating and prohibiting all nuclear weapons.

Nuclear weapons are morally reprehensible.

The rightness of many issues is debatable, but nuclear weapons are morally unsupportable. Even possessing something so deadly is wrong. These weapons can destroy most life on Earth—what could be more evil? As Joseph Rotblat, the 1995 Nobel Peace Laureate, urged when speaking against nuclear weapons, “Remember your humanity!”

Father Richard McSorley has written, “Can we go along with the intent to use nuclear weapons? What is it wrong to do, it is wrong to intend to do. If it is wrong for me to kill you, it is wrong for me to plan to do it. If I get my gun and go into your house to retaliate for a wrong done me, then find there are police guarding your house, I have already committed murder in my heart. I have intended it. Likewise, if I intend to use nuclear weapons in massive retaliation, I have already committed massive murder in my heart.” (Emphasis added.)

Action!

Citizen action is required to persuade leaders to abolish nuclear weapons. Younger people must contribute to this effort by adding their energy and enthusiasm. Our strength will be in our numbers—if more of us raise our voices, there is nothing in this world which can block change.

Actions include:

1) Make copies of the Abolition 2000 International Petition that appears in Appendix C, and have as many people as possible sign it. Return the signed pledges to the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

2) Start a peace group in your school to disseminate information on abolition, to launch letter-writing campaigns on nuclear issues, and to collect signatures on Abolition 2000 Petitions.

3) Introduce the Abolition 2000 Resolution for College Campuses (see Appendix D) on your campus and work to get it passed; then help circulate it among your fellow students and among the faculty and administration. There is also an Abolition 2000 Resolution for Municipalities. Write to the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation for a copy.

4) Keep informed by joining the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and/or other peace and disarmament groups working to achieve a nuclear weapon free world. You can keep abreast of news on abolition by going to the web site of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation: www.wagingpeace.org. You can sign up there for the free electronic newsletter, The Sunflower.

5) Organize a letter-writing campaign to decision makers around the world urging nuclear weapons abolition within a timeframe framework and a firm commitment to reduce the nuclear threat (see Appendices E and F for a sample letter and names and addresses). Groups like Amnesty International have demonstrated that letter-writing campaigns work!

6) Vote and vote smart. Most candidates for public office are not even discussing steps to reduce the nuclear threat or nuclear weapons abolition. Ask candidates for their views on this. Support candidates who endorse abolition and steps to reduce the nuclear threat.
ABOLITION 2000 STATEMENT

A secure and livable world for our children and grandchildren and all future generations requires that we achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and redress the environmental degradation and human suffering that is the legacy of fifty years of nuclear weapons testing and production.

Further, the inextricable link between the “peaceful” and warlike uses of nuclear technologies and the threat to future generations inherent in the creation and use of long-lived radioactive materials must be recognized. We must move toward reliance on clean, safe, renewable forms of energy production that do not provide the materials for weapons of mass destruction and do not poison the environment for thousands of centuries. The true “inalienable” right is not to nuclear energy, but to life, liberty and security of person in a world free of nuclear weapons.

We recognize that a nuclear weapons free world must be achieved carefully and in a step by step manner. We are convinced of its technological feasibility. Lack of political will, especially on the part of the nuclear weapons states, is the only true barrier. As chemical and biological weapons are prohibited, so must nuclear weapons be prohibited.

We call upon all states, particularly the nuclear weapons states, declared and de facto, to take the following steps to achieve nuclear weapons abolition. We further urge the states parties to the NPT to demand binding commitments by the declared nuclear weapons states to implement these measures:

1) Initiate immediately and conclude by the year 2000 negotiations on a nuclear weapons abolition convention that requires the phased elimination of all nuclear weapons within a timebound framework, with provisions for effective verification and enforcement.*
2) Immediately make an unconditional pledge not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons.
3) Rapidly complete a truly comprehensive test ban treaty with a zero threshold and with the stated purpose of precluding nuclear weapons development by all states.
4) Cease to produce and deploy new and additional nuclear weapons systems, and commence to withdraw and disable deployed nuclear weapons systems.
5) Prohibit the military and commercial production and reprocessing of all weapons usable radioactive materials.
6) Subject all weapons usable radioactive materials and nuclear facilities in all states to international accounting, monitoring, and safeguards, and establish a public international registry of all weapons usable radioactive materials.
7) Prohibit nuclear weapons research, design, development, and testing through laboratory experiments including but not limited to non-nuclear hydrodynamic explosions and computer simulations, subject all nuclear weapons laboratories to international monitoring, and close all nuclear test sites.
8) Create additional nuclear weapons free zones such as those established by the treaties of Tlatelolco and Rarotonga.
9) Recognize and declare the illegality of threat or use of nuclear weapons, publicly and before the World Court.
10) Establish an international energy agency to promote and support the development of sustainable and environmentally safe energy sources.
11) Create mechanisms to ensure the participation of citizens and NGOs in planning and monitoring the process of nuclear weapons abolition.

A world free of nuclear weapons is a shared aspiration of humanity. This goal cannot be achieved in a non-proliferation regime that authorizes the possession of nuclear weapons by a small group of states. Our common security requires the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Our objective is definite and unconditional abolition of nuclear weapons.

*The convention should mandate irreversible disarmament measures, including but not limited to the following: withdraw and disable all deployed nuclear weapons systems; disable and dismantle warheads; place warheads and weapon usable radioactive materials under international safeguards; destroy ballistic missiles and other delivery systems. The convention could also incorporate the measures listed above which should be implemented independently without delay. When fully implemented, the convention would replace the NPT.

April 25, 1995
MOOREA DECLARATION

Supplement to the Abolition 2000 Founding Statement
Adopted at the Abolition 2000 Conference, Moorea, Te Ao Maohi
25 January 1997

This conference reaffirms the commitments and the vision of the Abolition 2000 Founding Statement initiated in 1995—the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki—to work for the definite and unconditional abolition of nuclear weapons, and redress the environmental degradation and human suffering that is the legacy of fifty-two years of nuclear weapons usage, testing, and production.

However, this meeting, held in Te Ao Maohi a year after the end of French nuclear testing, has highlighted the particular suffering of indigenous and colonized peoples as a result of the production and testing of nuclear weapons. The anger and tears of colonized peoples arise from the fact that there was no consultation, no consent, no involvement in the decision when their lands, air and waters were taken for the nuclear build-up, from the very start of the nuclear era.

Colonized and indigenous peoples have, in the large part, borne the brunt of this nuclear devastation—from the mining of uranium and the testing of nuclear weapons on indigenous peoples land, to the dumping, storage and transport of plutonium and nuclear wastes, and the theft of land for nuclear infrastructure.

The Founding Statement of Abolition 2000 states that “the participation of citizens and NGOs in planning and monitoring the abolition of nuclear weapons is vital.” We reaffirm this, in spirit and action, but also state that indigenous and colonized peoples must be central to this process. This can only happen if and when they are able to participate in decisions relating to the nuclear weapons cycle—and especially in the abolition of nuclear weapons in all aspects. The inalienable right to self-determination, sovereignty and independence is crucial in allowing all peoples of the world to join in the common struggle to rid the planet forever of nuclear weapons.

Therefore, this conference agrees that this Moorea Declaration becomes a supplement to the Abolition 2000 Founding Statement.

ABOLITION 2000 INTERNATIONAL PETITION MISSILES TO SUNFLOWERS A NEW COMMITMENT FOR A NEW CENTURY

We call upon all states, and particularly the nuclear weapons states, to make the following commitment for a new century:

1. END THE NUCLEAR THREAT. End the nuclear threat by withdrawing all nuclear weapons from foreign soil and international waters, separating warheads from delivery vehicles, committing to unconditional no first use of nuclear weapons, and ceasing all nuclear weapons tests, including laboratory tests and “subcriticals.”

2. SIGN THE TREATY. Sign a Nuclear Weapons Convention by the year 2000, agreeing to prohibit and eliminate all nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework.

3. REALLOCATE RESOURCES. Reallocate resources to ensure a sustainable global future and to redress the environmental devastation and human suffering caused by nuclear weapons production and testing, which have been disproportionately borne by the world’s indigenous peoples.

Name: ___________________________ e-mail*: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________

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Address: ___________________________

The results of this petition will be delivered to the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conferences, the Human Rights Commission, and the governments of nuclear weapons states and nuclear threshold states.

*By providing your e-mail address, you will receive periodic updates on Abolition 2000.

Please return Abolition 2000 International Petitions to:

Abolition 2000
c/o Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
1187 Coast Village Road, Suite 123 • Santa Barbara, CA 93108
Tel: (805) 965-3443 • Fax: (805) 568-0466
e-mail: wagingpeace@napf.org
Abolition 2000 Resolution For College Campuses

Whereas the billions of dollars spent on nuclear weapons each year could be reallocated to help fund educational programs and other social needs;

Whereas the research and development of nuclear weapons, which has involved many of our universities, fosters a culture of secrecy which is in direct opposition to the principles of democracy;

Whereas the intellectual resources currently devoted to the development and maintenance of our nuclear arsenals could be far more productively used for research into environmentally sound technologies;

Whereas the International Court of Justice ruled unanimously in July 1996, “There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control”;

Whereas retired U.S. General Lee Butler, once responsible for all U.S. strategic nuclear forces, has called nuclear weapons “inherently dangerous, hugely expensive, militarily inefficient, and morally indefensible”;

Whereas the residual effects of nuclear warfare would have a lasting impact on present and future generations, posing a constant threat to the health and peace of mind of the world’s citizens;

Whereas it is in the direct interest of young people to support the sustainability of life on this planet in order that they may have a healthy place to live in which to pursue their dreams and aspirations;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Student Council of

Declares itself a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone and supports the further development of Nuclear Weapon Free Zones throughout the world;

Calls for all nuclear weapons to be taken off alert status, for all nuclear warheads to be separated from their delivery vehicles, and for the nuclear weapons states to agree to unconditional no first use of these weapons;

Calls upon the governments of all nuclear weapons states to begin negotiations immediately on a Nuclear Weapons Convention to prohibit and eliminate all nuclear weapons early in the next century, and to complete these negotiations by the year 2000; and

Calls for copies of this resolution to be distributed among the student body, faculty, and administration, as well as local government leaders, U.S. Representative(s), U.S. Senators, and the President.

Sample Letter To World Leaders Urging Abolition

Dear

You have the capacity to influence the course of world history. I urge you to play a leadership role in the global effort to reduce the nuclear threat and to eliminate nuclear weapons from Earth. Please work toward convening negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention that would prohibit and abolish nuclear weapons.

Nuclear weapons are not in the best interests of any nation nor of the human species. These weapons of mass destruction drain resources which can be used to alleviate poverty, improve education and protect the environment. Please help achieve a more peaceful and secure future for today’s children and for future generations.

The sunflower has been adopted by many peace organizations throughout the world as the symbol for a nuclear weapon free world ever since the Defense Ministers of Ukraine, Russia, and the United States planted sunflowers and scattered sunflower seeds on a former Ukrainian nuclear missile base to mark Ukraine’s change in status from the world’s third largest nuclear weapons state to a nuclear weapons free nation.

Please choose sunflowers instead of nuclear-armed missiles. Please heed the voices of the people and work for a nuclear weapons free future.

Names and Addresses of Heads of State of Nuclear Weapons Nations*

China
Premier Li Peng
Office of the Premier
225 Chaoyangmennei Dajie Dongsi
Beijing, China

France
President Jacques Chirac
Office of the President
Palais De L’Elysee, 55-57 rue de Faubourg, St. Honore 75008 Paris, France
Tel: +33-1-4292-8100 Fax: +33-1-4742-2465 Telex: 650127

India
Prime Minister I. K. Gujral
Prime Minister’s Office
South Block, New Delhi 110011, India
Tel: +91-11-3013040 Fax: +91-11-3016857 Telex: 3161876

Israel
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Rehov Kaplan, Hakirya, Jerusalem 91007, Israel
Tel: +972-2-705555 Fax: +972-2-664838

Pakistan
President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari
President’s House
Islamabad, Pakistan
Tel: +92-51-214029

Russia
President Boris Yeltsin
Office of the Government
Krasnopresenskaya 2, Moscow, Russia
Tel: +7-095-925-3581 Fax: +7-095-205-4219

United Kingdom
Prime Minister Tony Blair
Prime Minister’s Office
10 Downing Street, London, SW 1A 2 AA, Britain
Tel: +44-171-270-3000

U.S.A.
President William J. Clinton
The White House, Washington, DC 20500, U.S.A.
Tel:+1-202-456-1111 Fax: +1-202-456-2461
e-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

* These names are current as of August 1, 1997. Please check to make sure that no changes have occurred since then.

Sources for Further Information on Nuclear Weapons Issues

Books

Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, United Nations General Assembly A/51/218, 15 October 1996.


Journals


The Defense Monitor. Center for Defense Information, 1500 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington DC 20005.

Waging Peace Worldwide. Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, 1187 Coast Village Road, Suite 123, Santa Barbara, CA 93108.