

## TRIDENT CONDEMNED

On January 25, 1986, the U.S.S. Alaska was commissioned in New London, Conn.. Since the guidance component of the Trident missiles are designed at Draper, we share the following letter with you. It was written by Bishop Michael Kenny, the Catholic Bishop of Juneau, Alaska.

" On Saturday, Jan. 25, the United States of America will commission another Trident submarine. This latest weapon in our nuclear arsenal will bear the name USS Alaska.

On the most fundamental level it matters little what name is stamped on a Trident sub. " Whats in a name?" A rose by any other name would smell as sweet... And a Trident by whatever name it goes would be as lethal, as death dealing. Should it have no name at all, it would still be a mockery to the human race and a shame to the nation that produces it.

The Trident sub is an extraordinary example of the moral bankruptcy and dreadful folly of the continuing nuclear arms race. This singular vessel contains 360 nuclear warheads, each one of which contains more destructive force than 30 Hiroshimas! From its shadowy depths this one sub can unleash upon our earth eight times the fire power of all the bombs dropped during the course of world war II.

To say that the Trident is a weapon that should never be used is to say it is a weapon that should never be made. To claim that we build it only to keep peace and that we possess it only to deter war is also claiming that we have the ultimate will to use it. And never, never, never never, could we justify the massive and indiscriminate slaughter that would follow. " We will not be judged before the throne of God ( or before whatever human tribunal might survive ) for what the Russians do but for what we do." It is so infantile to attempt to justify one's own behavior by pointing to the deed of someone else. There are simply those things that moral decent and civilized people may not do regardless of the actions of others.

Each time an additional nuclear weapon is produced the peril in which the human race lives is multiplied. Such instruments of death and destruction do not advance any true peace; they simply add to the reign of terror. And all of this is not without present and very real tragedy for the enormous amount of resources poured into the arms race, might otherwise have gone to alleviate the desperate conditions of the world's poorest people. But make no mistake about it, while the poor are robbed, others reap immense profits.

Now, to this latest crime against humanity, this particular submarine, we give the name of our beloved state. How sad, Alaska - " The Great Land " - now the name of a weapon system that can desecrate the land. Our native peoples gave Alaska its name have such reverence for the earth. It is a nurturing mother. Now we have given that same name to a sub that can destroy that mother.

As a country and as a state we are disgraced. "

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