

1984 PLATFORM OF THE UNITED STATES PACIFIST PARTY

The United States Pacifist Party (USPP) is designed to give expression within a democratic, electoral context to the belief that military power profoundly contradicts many religious and philosophic principles, and is a practical mistake in our time. It sees military traditions and institutions as the key obstacle to the solution of major social evils, such as war, the arms race, poverty, and political oppression. Support for the Party can spring from these, among other, perspectives: religious pacifism, which views military force as a violation of Divine revelation and the supreme values of love and truth; political pacifism, which maintains that the economic, political and social evils that flow from the threat and use of military force outweigh the beneficial results that organized, mass violence may achieve; and a mathematical probability analysis of the nuclear arms race, which shows that "deterrence" is inherently unstable - that its likelihood of failure approaches certainty. Major Party platform planks are:

- Zero military budget;
- Complete disarmament through negotiations and unilateral actions. Support for the freeze as a first step;
- An end to all overt and covert military aid and intelligence operations;
- Massive aid to abolish hunger, poverty, and ignorance at home and worldwide. The aid would be administered by the United Nations;
- Preparation for nonviolent resistance against possible invasion and occupation attempts;
- Internationalization of nuclear and fusion energy. Shut-down of plutonium creating reactors until all nuclear weapons and weapons manufacturing facilities have been deactivated, and a democratic world government can appraise nuclear technology in terms of global interests. Promotion of solar, wind, oceanic temperature gradient, and other sources of low pollution energy;
- Full employment through revitalized private enterprises, including cooperatives, and worker-controlled and managed industries, and federally administered public projects. We recognize that most violence is the defensive behavior of those protecting property and privilege, in societies and a world in which the loss of dominance and advantages means poverty, degradation, oppression and exploitation. Where society is divided by different social relations to the means of production, distribution and allocation of goods and services, basic social inequality follows. Having, belonging, and controlling characterize certain social strata, while dependency, passivity, insecurity and propertylessness characterize others. States and sets of states are in a similar relationship. Today, two dominant power blocs of states, with generally incompatible dominant classes and social relations, have divided the world into competing spheres of influence, the maintenance of which demands the upkeep and development of huge military establishments, armaments industries and technologies, and