

Dear Draper Employees,

This is a letter we have sent to each member of your Board of Directors. What do you think?

Dear

We note that as a member of the Board of Directors of the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory you have accepted a twenty-one million dollar contract with the Department of Defense to develop and perfect the inertial guidance systems for the Trident 2 missile.

We also note that the extreme accuracy which this guidance system gives Trident 2 is not required for deterrence but is only necessary for first strike weapons.

We also note that the launching platform afforded by submarines in seas on the periphery of the Soviet Union give Trident 2 an extremely short delivery time.

We also note that as they are aimed at missile silos, our projected Trident 2 force must give the Soviets a sense that they have no other choice but to adopt a launch on warning policy. Such a policy greatly increases the chances of nuclear holocaust by mistake, if through a computer error the Soviets launch their missile force at us falsely supposing we have already launched an attack on them. In time of diplomatic crisis our first strike capability might greatly increase the Soviet temptation to launch a pre-emptive first strike lest their land-based missiles be destroyed in their silos.

In view of these facts it seems to us that:

Our Trident 2 force is not being designed as a deterrent but as a first strike weapon.

Our Trident 2 force will not enhance our security but decrease it.

Our Trident 2 force will not keep the peace but will make the destruction of all civilized life, of all that we love and hope for, more and not less likely.

Unless you can persuade us that our interpretation of these facts is mistaken, we call on you, in the name of God and for the sake of all the world's people and all generations yet unborn to cancel your contract for Trident 2 and end Draper's involvement in the development of that weapon.

Yours in Hope,

for The Members of Ailanthus
A nonviolent witness for peace
23 Dartmouth Street
Boston MA 02116

3 March, 1986