1985

# PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

"Everybody's going to make it if there are enough shovels to go around . . . Dig a hole, cover it with a couple of doors and then throw three feet of dirt on top. It's the dirt that does it."

*—T. K. Jones*
*Deputy Undersecretary of Defense*
*for Strategic and Theater Nuclear Forces*

Dear Friend:

How does one respond to such madness? Do our policymakers understand the consequences of the policies they propose? We think not.

Millions of Americans fear an all-out nuclear war within the next ten years, with understandable cause.

Some future trouble spot in the Caribbean, Middle East or elsewhere could well become the catalyst. The recent killing of an American Army major in East Germany suggests how easily an itchy trigger finger, an error of judgment or a mechanical malfunction can set in motion events that might lead to a nuclear disaster.

In spite of the recent and welcomed resumption of nuclear arms talks, our own policymakers in Washington continue to pursue a nuclear "war-fighting" capability. In order to deter nuclear war, they continue to argue, we must be prepared to win a nuclear war with the Soviet Union. Their policies are based on the hollow premise that American society can, in any meaningful sense, survive the ultimate holocaust.

In the Pentagon's Five-Year Plan, Secretary of Defense Weinberger has stated that U.S. forces must be capable of "controlled nuclear counterattacks over a protracted period..." in order to "prevail and be able to force the Soviet Union to seek earliest termination of hostilities on terms favorable to the United States."

Eugene Rostow, President Reagan's first Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, sees recovery from nuclear war as a manageable problem. He has said: "Japan, after all, not only survived but flourished after a nuclear attack...Depending on certain assumptions, some estimates predict 10 million (dead) on one side and 100 million on the other. But that is not the whole population."

Mr. Rostow ignores the fact that Hiroshima was not a nuclear exchange. Only one power possessed atomic weapons. Now at least six nations possess them. The Hiroshima bomb was a fifteen kiloton device. Strategic warheads today can exceed twenty megatons. Then there was an

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