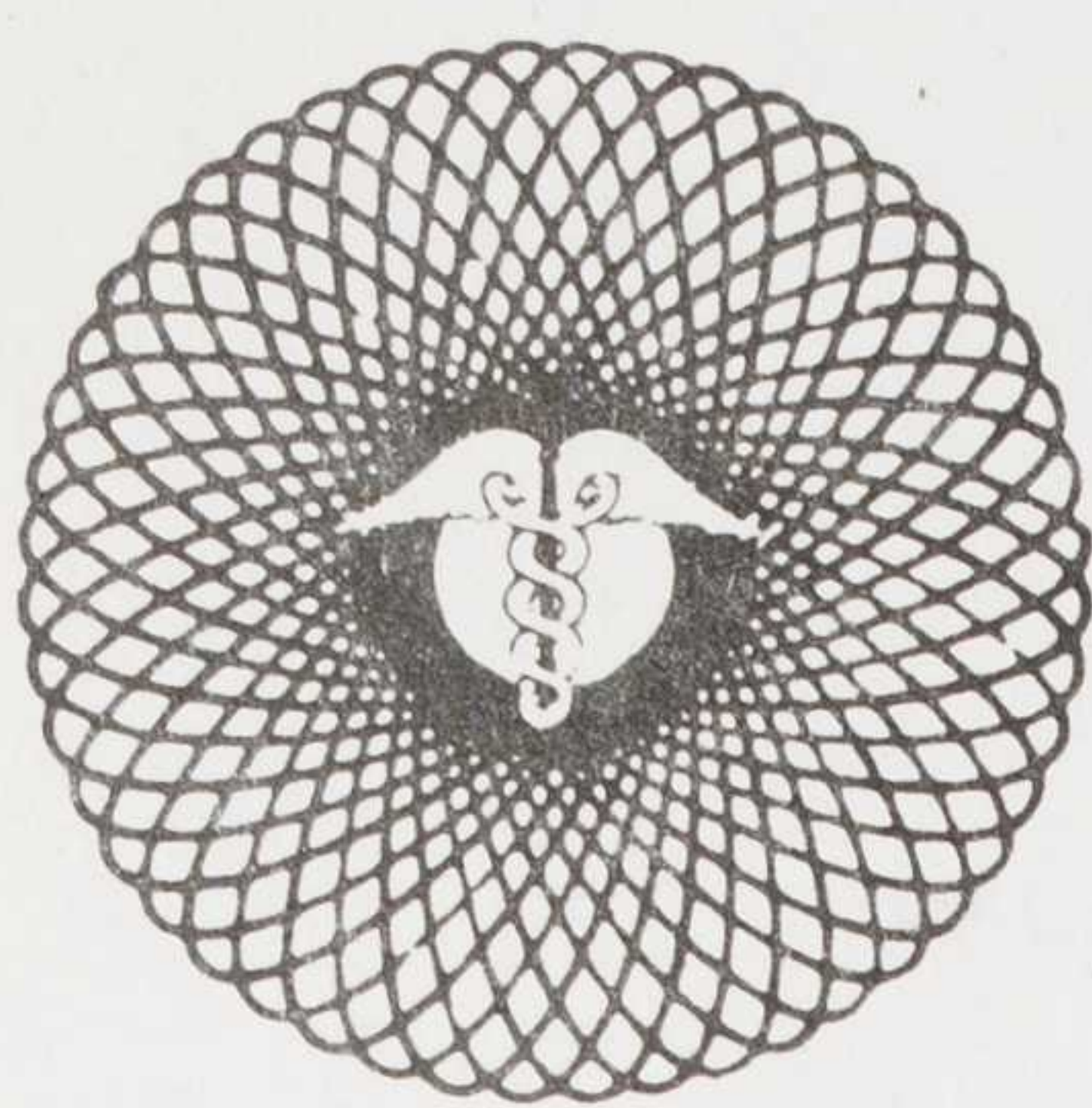




THE CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER OF
PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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UNACCEPTABLE HEALTH COSTS OF NUCLEAR POWER AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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As physicians concerned with the preservation of human life, we call for vigorous and sincere pursuit of nuclear disarmament and an end to nuclear power.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The first nuclear reactor was built, not to generate electricity, but to create the nuclear waste product, plutonium, to be used in the first plutonium bomb. August 6, 1945, the first public demonstration of atomic power, was the last event in the lives of 80,000 eyewitnesses when a uranium bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Three days later, the victory celebrations were repeated when the first plutonium bomb fell on Nagasaki. Celebration gave way to shock and despair at the dwindling hopes for human survival in the face of nuclear war.

Global protests seeking to outlaw the bomb by international agreement did not stop the newly formed Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) from initiating further weapons research and development, atmospheric and marine detonations, and the mass production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons. In 1949, the US monopoly on nuclear terror ended when the Soviet Union detonated its first nuclear device.

International alarm about AEC activities is thought by many to have