At this point we can only surmise what lasting psychological and political effect this propaganda blitzkrieg will have upon the American public, both youthful and adult. But it seems inevitable that large new segments of our population will have become politicized against a U.S. position of strong defense.

The critical missing message in all the programs examined is that there is another avenue to avert nuclear war, namely, keeping our nerve and resolve to remain free and maintain the necessary level of national strength to insure deterrence in the face of the very real dangers posed by nuclear weapons. This approach requires an application of the fact that adequate military strength is needed if we are to both preserve our cherished freedoms and insure that a predator nation, such as the Soviet Union, will find us too powerful to strike with any level of nuclear force. The doctrine of Peace Through Strength is precisely what our times demand, a formula for securing peace without surrendering the ideals of democracy. Our children are being denied an understanding of this approach in the programs being employed to influence their developing powers of judgment.

The Indoctrination Campaign Mushrooms

The huge body of anti-defense propaganda to which we have referred is essentially the work of several hundred organized groups, many of which have come into being since the launching of the nuclear weapons freeze campaign in late 1980.

There is such a bewildering profusion of these groups, with similar titles and overlapping functions, that the movement itself has found it necessary to create mechanisms simply to keep track of them, and to acquaint competing outfits with what others are doing in the same directions. For example, there is now the Forum Institute in Washington, D.C., which sells a "1983 Handbook: Arms Control and Peace Organizations/Activities," comprising 285 pages. Its stated purpose is to serve as a clearinghouse between potential funders of the anti-nuclear movement and the many activist organizations, assisting them to "identify their common concerns and to develop materials and strategies that enhance their impact, avoid duplication and minimize unproductive competition." The American Library Association in Chicago publishes a similar listing, "Peace Research and Activist Groups: A North American Directory."

In the face of such a massive campaign to indoctrinate students, it is imperative that means be found, either to eliminate such politically motivated initiatives from America's classrooms, or, failing this, to insure that some balance is obtained in the presentation of viewpoints on arms control and related issues.

The American Security Council Foundation receives a considerable volume of requests from unbiased faculty at all educational levels for literature and other materials which express pro-defense arguments. These requests are obviously generated by the sparse pro-defense citations contained in a couple of the teaching units described above. Obviously no single organization such as ASCF can hope to counter by itself the combined resources of the vast anti-defense campaign we have outlined. The "peace" forces can draw upon the huge membership of the National Education Association's state affiliates for manpower, plus those members of the hundreds of anti-defense groups who are active in parent-teacher affairs.

If we are to have any hope of protecting our children and our nation from the partisan indoctrination intended by the teaching programs mentioned here (and others), all of us must make our views known to boards and departments of education in our home areas, and to our elected representatives.

Our classrooms must not be used as propaganda organs controlled by anti-defense lobbyists. Our free society will not be able to survive if each new class of young adults enters the policy-influencing arena of life unconvinced of the value of our institutions and the need for a strong defense of them.

In order to intelligently oppose the harmful programs described, concerned citizens should obtain copies of the materials used in them. Armed with this information, they can effectively demonstrate to their local Boards of Education (school boards) that such programs have no place in our non-partisan public school systems. To aid in this action we list the chief nuclear war programs, the organizations which produced them, and the addresses from which they may be obtained:

"Choices" National Education Association. Publications Order Department, The Academic Building, Saw Mill Road, West Haven, CT 06516

"Crossroads" Jobs With Peace, 77 Summer Street, Boston, MA 02110

"Decision Making in a Nuclear Age" Educators for Social Responsibility, 639 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139

"Facing History & Ourselves: Holocaust & Human Behavior" Facing History & Ourselves National Foundation, 25 Kennard Road, Brookline, MA 02146

CIBC Bulletin, Vol. 13, Nos. 6 & 7. Council on Interracial Books for Children, 1841 Broadway, New York, NY 20023

"Teaching Nuclear Issues" Nuclear Information Research Service, 1346 Connecticut Avenue, NW, 4th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20036

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