Around the globe, 770 million people are malnourished; 14 million children die of hunger-related causes each year; 1.3 billion people lack access to safe drinking water; 100 million men, women and children lack adequate shelter and 880 million adults cannot read or write.

Excessive spending on arms also strains our national economy. In the last eight years, United States annual military spending has doubled from $144 billion to $290 billion. The $2 trillion in U.S. military spending in those years cost every family approximately $21,000, and 30 to 40 percent of all U.S. scientific research and development spending went to military research. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, $1 billion spent on defense creates 75,700 jobs, while the same amount spent on education could create 187,300 jobs. Which is the better investment in our future?

At least 20 million Americans don't get enough to eat, and for the annual cost of Star Wars research -- a little more than $4 billion -- we could provide a good meal for each of them every day for six months.

At the end of 1988 there were more than 82,400 AIDS victims in the United States, and the number is increasing rapidly. In 1989, the government plans to budget about $1.2 billion for education, treatment and research on AIDS. Yet the U.S. is spending $4 to $5 billion each year on the Stealth bomber, which will eventually cost taxpayers $68.1 billion.

The nuclear arms race, which increases the risk of a catastrophic nuclear war, is also scarring our environment and diverting resources from activities urgently needed to preserve our ecological heritage. Radioactive and toxic wastes from weapons production plants have been dumped into the water, soil and air, threatening the health of plant workers and the general public. This tragic situation has prompted Sen. John Glenn and others to observe that national security should not require the "poisoning of our people." Cleanup at these sites may cost hundreds of billions of dollars and take decades to complete -- a double tragedy since the same funds could have been used to fight global warming, ozone depletion and other threats to global survival.

Environmental degradation threatens the security of all nations, including our own. Meeting these challenges will require substantial investments in new technologies, lifestyle changes and international cooperation. And because no weapons can reverse resource depletion or restore lost ecological balance, the continued militarization of the world's economy is incompatible with building a sustainable society.

These new challenges to national and global security -- threats to the health, safety and livelihood of the world's people and to the environment they share with other species -- know no borders. The pursuit of military -- and especially nuclear -- superiority not only fails to address these security issues, it makes many of them worse.

National and Global Security: Some Cost Comparisons

SPENDING PRIORITIES	COST
■ Annual world military budget	$900 billion
■ Global budget required to reverse the world's most pressing environmental crises (Worldwatch Institute estimate)	$149 billion
■ Trident II submarine and F-18 jet fighter programs	$100 billion
■ Clean-up of 10,000 worst hazardous waste dumps in the U.S.	$100 billion
■ Development cost of Midgetman missile	$ 6.5 billion
■ Annual cost to cut sulfur dioxide emissions by 8 to 12 million tons per year in the U.S., to combat acid rain	$ 6.5 billion
■ One Trident submarine	$ 1.4 billion
■ Global 5-year child immunization program against six deadly diseases, preventing one million deaths per year	$ 1.4 billion
■ One B-2 "Stealth" bomber	$516 million
■ One day's approximate interest on the U.S. national debt	$500 million
■ One U.S. nuclear test	$ 12 million
■ Approximate cost to train 40,000 community health workers in the developing world	$ 12 million

National security cannot be achieved merely through military spending and a constant race to build new and more powerful nuclear weapons systems. Security also comes from the strength of our economy and the investments we make in health care, education, the environment and other social priorities. We have undermined our security by neglecting these priorities in pursuit of missiles, bombers and Star Wars weapons in space.

Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) is an organization of doctors and concerned citizens committed to preventing nuclear war and helping the American public redefine its national security priorities. We believe the arms race threatens our health and security by increasing the risks of nuclear war, by consuming scarce resources, and by harming our global environment.

This brochure is one in a series on national security issues published by PSR. For more information about PSR's campaign to redefine national security, or to become a PSR member, write to 1000 16th St., NW, Suite 810, Washington, DC 20036; or call (202) 785-3777.

References available from PSR upon request.