

August 9, 1985

PEACE BEGINS WITH YOU AND ME
(believe it or not)

The bombs that dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki blinded those who looked at them. In a deeper sense, the-ever present threat of the Bomb has blinded us all, ever since, to the possibilities for peace. Like those original victims of the bomb, we have stood paralyzed waiting for governments to find a way to control or abolish these doomsday weapons. But the nation-states of the world thrive on the power the Bomb gives them, even while it drives them to their own destruction. They are like the character Yank, in the O'Neill play who, in his blind devotion to the power of technology, grabs the terminals of a dynamo and in a frenzy of exaltation, immolates himself.

We need a different model of power if we are to save our lovely planet from annihilation. On the analogy of the Bomb itself, we look for a chain reaction for peace, in which each of us activates our friend or neighbor to act creatively out of love for life and caring for each other. In this way, even the smallest actions of individuals can be magnified many times. (We have seen this principle operate again and again in the peace movement.) And which of us wouldn't be willing to take that small but vital action when we let ourselves visualize the likely incineration of the earth, with its irreplaceable wildlife and human life -- the life of mind and spirit itself.

None of us, of course, can tell others what we ought to be doing -- except, maybe, to be aware of all the possible channels for peace that are open to us as individuals. For example, among the many professional organizations working for peace are Business Executives for Nuclear Survival; Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility; Lawyers' Alliance for Nuclear Arms Control; and Performing Artists for Nuclear Disarmament (PAND), along with the older Union of Concerned Scientists and High Technology Professionals

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