

PSR PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, INC. NEWSLETTER

Volume I
Number 2
April 1980
P.O. Box 144
56 N. Beacon Street
Watertown, Massachusetts
02172



PHYSICIANS MEET WITH WHITE HOUSE AND SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS

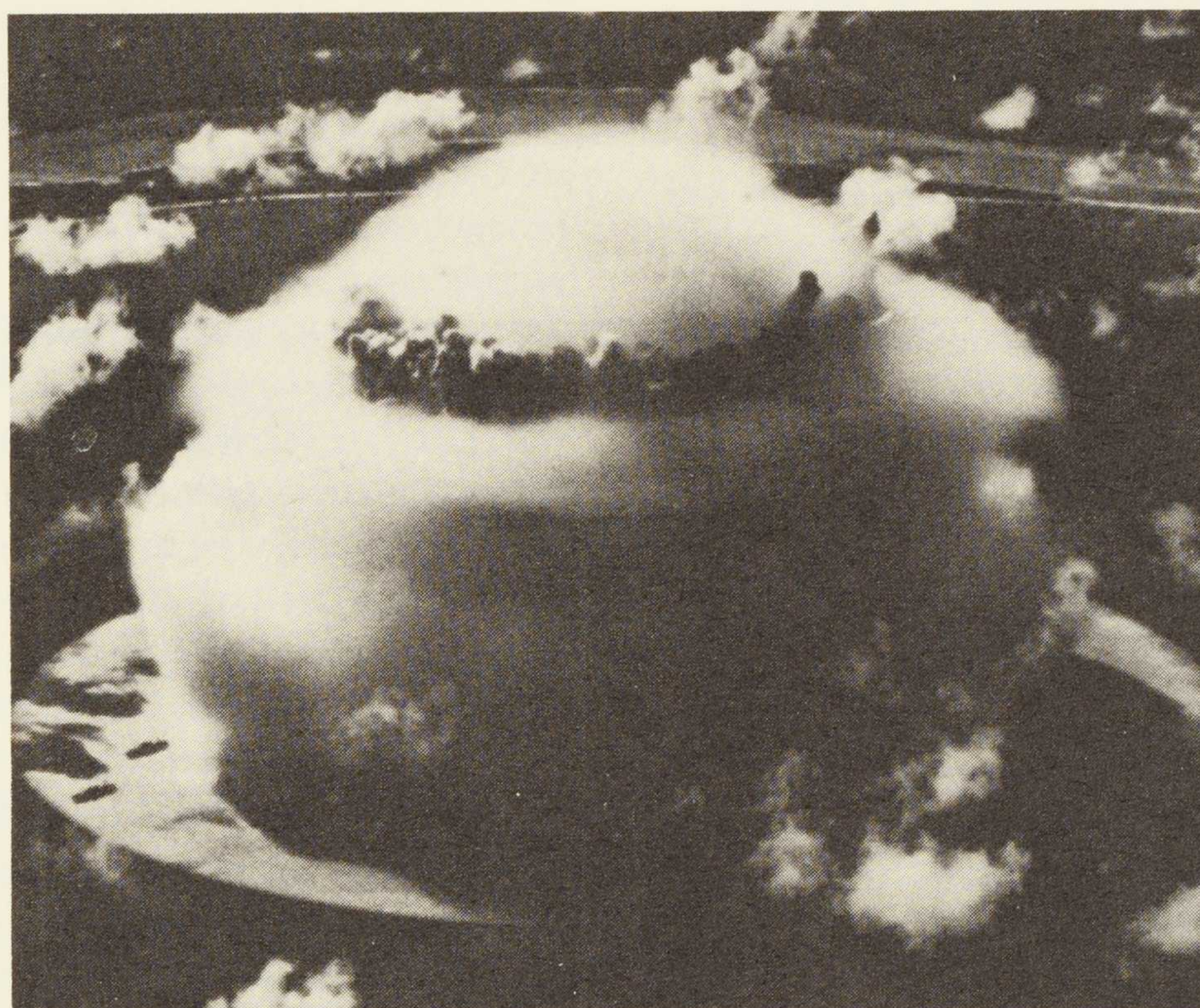
This open letter from American physicians calling for defused tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union was hand-delivered on March 6, 1980 to officials of both countries. The letter, resulting from the PSR symposium "The Medical Consequences of Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear War," pointed out the futility of medical disaster planning in a nuclear war.

Physicians delivering the letter included Drs. Helen Caldicott, Eric Chivian, Stuart Finch, Jerome Frank, H. Jack Geiger, Howard Hiatt, and Alexander Leaf. The letter and an explanation of the effect of a single 20 megaton bomb on a metropolitan area, signed by over 700 prominent doctors and citizens, appeared as a full page ad in the March 2 Sunday *New York Times*.

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A NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE MEDICAL CONSEQUENCES OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR WAR

(Full Story on Page 4)



AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND CHAIRMAN BREZHNEV

As physicians, scientists, and concerned citizens, alarmed by an international political climate that increasingly presents nuclear war as a "rational" possibility, we are impelled to renew a warning, based on medical and scientific analyses, that:

1. Nuclear war, even a "limited" one, would result in death, injury and disease on a scale that has no precedent in the history of human existence;
2. Medical "disaster planning" for a nuclear war is meaningless. There is no possible effective medical response. Most hospitals would be destroyed, most medical personnel dead or injured, most supplies unavailable. Most "survivors" would die;
3. There is no effective civil defense. The blast, thermal and radiation effects would kill even those in shelters, and the fallout would reach those who had been evacuated;
4. Recovery from nuclear war would be

impossible. The economic, ecologic and social fabric on which human life depends would be destroyed in the U.S., the U.S.S.R., and much of the rest of the world;

5. In sum, there can be no winners in a nuclear war. Worldwide fallout would contaminate much of the globe for generations and atmospheric effects would severely damage all living things.

Therefore, in the interests of protecting human life, we appeal to you to:

1. Defuse the current tensions between our countries.
2. Ban the use of all nuclear weapons.
3. Recognize the threat posed by the very existence of our enormous nuclear arsenals, and begin dismantling them.

We urge you to meet with us to discuss the medical consequences of nuclear war. We urge all physicians in the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. to join us in this appeal.