CALL TO CONSCIENCE

The endorsement by the United States of the Principles of Nuremberg Judgement makes adherence to international law a matter of constitutional necessity. Taken together, Article VI of the U.S. Constitution and the Nuremberg Principles have established that citizens must not go along with policies they know to be wrong. Furthermore, U.S. judges must understand themselves to be competent and responsible to restrain the execution of government policy if such policy is internationally outlawed.

With this in mind, and the laws of love and nonviolence in our hearts, we the undersigned, call to accountability, the General Dynamics Corporation, the United States Navy, and the National Security Council, on this first day of October, 1984 for intentionally perpetrating crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes against the peace in violation of the following international legal principles. We demand that General Dynamics' illegal warplanning and preperation be forbidden.

I. CRIMES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE NUREMBER PRINCIPLES.

"The following acts, or any of them, are crimes...for which there shall be individual responsibility:

Article VI

Crimes against peace, namely planning, preparation, initiation, or waging of a war of aggression, or a war in violation of international treaties, agreements or assurances...

Article VIII

The fact that the defendant acted pursuant to the order of his (or her) government or responsible official in government departments shall not be considered as freeing them from responsibility...

Article IX

At the trial of any individual member of any group or organization, the tribunal may declare that the group or organization of which the individual was a member was a criminal organization.

II. CRIMES UNDER TREATIES, PACTS, PROTOCOLS, CHARTERS, CONVENTIONS.

- Declaration of St. Petersburg, of 1868, which limits all warfare to military forces alone.
- Hague Convention, of 1899, which especially prohibits the employment of poison or poisoned arms, the killing or wounding treacherously of individuals belonging to a hostile nation or army, the employment of arms, projectiles, or materials of a nature to cause superfluous injury.
- Geneva Gas Protocol, of 1925, which prohibits the use of poisonous or other gasses and all analagous liquids, materials or devices.
- Kellogg-Briand Pact, of 1928, which condemned and renounced recourse to war as an instrument of national policy.
- 1977 Geneva Protocol, which bans methods or means of warfare that cause widespread, longterm and severe destruction to natural environment.

- First Principles of Nuremberg, namely "Any person who commits an act which constitutes a crime under international law is responsible therefore, and liable to punishment."
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide, which criminalizes all "conspiracy to commit genocide" against a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.
- Outer Space Treaty of 1967, which forbids weapons of mass destruction of any kind from being placed in outer space.
- Non-Proliferation Treaty, of 1970, which forswears the United States from transferring or giving access to nuclear weapons, to anyone whatsoever, whether individual non-nuclear weapon states or groups of states.

III. CRIMES UNDER THE LAW OF HUMANITY.

United Nations Resolution #1653,1961 (XVI), which declares that "any state using nuclear or thermonuclear weapons is to be acting contrary to the laws of humanity, and as committing a crime against humankind and civilization."

IV. CRIMES AGAINST THE LAWS OF GOD.

- Exodus 20:13 "You Shall Not Kill"
- Matthew 5:44 "Love Your Enemies"

V. PRECEDENT.

- Nuremberg Tribunal Judgment, in which, upon trying German industrialists, the court found that:

  1.) "International Law as such binds every citizen just as does ordinary municipal law. Acts adjudged criminal when done by an officer of the government are criminal when done by a private individual."

  2.) "The activities with which the accused were charged were commercial transactions conducted by civilians...Any civilian who is an accessory to the violation of the laws and customs of war is himself also liable as a war criminal."

  3.) "The fact that a person acts pursuant to the order of his government or of a superior does not relieve him (or her) from responsibility under international law, provided a moral choice was, in fact, possible for him."

- Zyclon B case: Civilians charged with making Zyclon B for use in death camps argued that the gas had beneficial as well as harmful uses, and that they were unaware of the governments' intended use. The Tribunal held them responsible however, declaring, "The laws and customs of war are addressed to...anybody who is in a position to assist in their violation."

We, the undersigned, have taken responsibility to disarm a part of the Trident II nuclear weapons system at Electric Boat, Quonset Point, RI and call all people of peace to acts of disarmament whenever possible, without inflicting harm upon another person. We do this for ourselves, on behalf of our families, and for all the world's people.

PLOWSHARES SUPPORT FUND/R.I.
P.O. BOX 3291
WAYLAND SQUARE
PROVIDENCE, R.I. 02906