

Copy of a letter to

Bradford Lyttle

United States Pacifist Party

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 13, 1983

Dear Mr. Lyttle:

The President has asked me to acknowledge your letter of August 27th and the booklet you refer to. He shares your desire for peace and the avoidance of nuclear war.

The bottom line of pure pacifism is, of course, surrender. History shows that a strong pacifist movement in countries targeted by aggressors simply encourages them to launch hostilities, and therefore serves as an inducement to war. Shortly before the outbreak of World War II, you may recall, the Oxford Union passed a resolution saying that they would "refuse to fight for King and Country." This was music to the ears of Adolph Hitler.

At Munich, Chamberlain and Daladier sought to appease Hitler by offering him the Sudetenland. He took it. Then he took the rest of Czechoslovakia. From the West there was nothing more than muted murmurs of protest. When Hitler decided to strike at Poland his generals warned him that it might bring strong reaction from Britain and France. We have nothing to fear from the leaders of the West, Hitler replied. "I have seen them at Munich. They are little worms!" Thus did a weak policy of appeasement bring on the very world conflagration it was designed to avert.

Your suggestion that the President should vacate the sovereignty of the United States in favor of a "world government" would require him to violate the oath he took to defend the Constitution. There is also little reason to believe that the Soviet Union under its present rulers would be the least interested in becoming part of a "democratic" world government. Their esteem for democracy is minimal. And, as the recent massacre of almost three hundred innocent airline passengers demonstrates, they neither shun violence, reverence human life, nor have any respect for civilized norms of international behavior.

[over]