THE ARMS RACE UNDERMINES EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.

"The world can either continue to pursue the arms race or move consciously and with deliberate speed toward a more sustainable international economic and political order. It cannot do both. The arms race and development are thus in a competitive relationship, particulary in terms of resources. Or, put it another way, the arms race and under-development are not two problems; they are one. They must be solved together or neither will be solved."

-Inga Thorsson, Undersecretary of State, Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Chair of the U.N. Group of Governmental Experts on Disarmament and Development, 1982

The money required to provide adequate food, water, education, health and housing for everyone in the world has been estimated at $17 billion a year. It is a huge sum of money ...about as much as the world spends on arms every two weeks.

THE ARMS RACE MAKES POOR COUNTRIES MORE DEPENDENT UPON THE SUPERPOWERS, AND ACCELERATES REGIONAL CONFLICTS AMONG POOR NATIONS.

"When you buy an airplane, you also buy a supplier and a supply line-in other words, you buy a political partner."

-Official of Lockheed Corporation, a major U.S. arms

95 percent of all the wars & ARMED conflicts since the Second World War have been fought in developing countries-not in the wealthy industrialized countries. The wealthy countries, and the superpowers in particular, strive for economic, political and military influence among poor countries, and sometimes aggravate regional tension and conflicts by supplying arms to opposing sides.

The attempt to keep up with the increasingly modern and sophisticated weapons of neighboring countries causes many poor nations to purchase larger supplies of the most modern (and expensive) weapons available to them. This makes the poor countries more dependent upon the richer, arms-supplying nations for the skilled technicians and sophisticated military parts which most poor nations cannot provide for themselve For poor countries, increasing sophistication in weaponry means increasing dependency upon the weapon makers, and makes wars and conflicts between poor countries more destructive and devastating.

NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER WILL FEATURE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: "WHY DOES UNITED STATES INVOLVMENT IN THE ARMS RACE CONTINUE?, and "WHAT CAN WE DO?.

Peace dove whistles in the dark sword in hand,
Flower-child rose without a thorn hold out the olive branch,
Sacrifice oneself children of light send one into raptures,
Wipe away the tears clean hands beat swords into plowshares.

-Jeffrey Michael Weiss-
1986