AN AGENDA FOR NON-COLLABORATION

Millions of U.S citizens in concert with ordinary people throughout the globe have made clear that they believe the present arms race is inimical to their security and have declared themselves in favor of a nuclear freeze.

The Administration, however, continues to flaunt the expressed wishes of the American people for a bilateral freeze on the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and delivery systems. Under the circumstances the indicated response for a frustrated public is to pressure the Congress for a National Initiative that would withold all funds for nuclear testing, manufacture and deployment, and invite the Soviet Union immediately to join the initiative--as it has said it would on a number of occasions.

Beyond that it is necessary forcefully to assert that the planning, possession and production of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery are crimes against humanity, as defined by the Nuremburg trials in which our government played a major role. We deeply believe that the nature of nuclear war, including the concept of deterrence, violates the legal norms established at Nuremburg.

If the Nazi slaughter was a violation of international law, surely nuclear holocaust even more fundamentally violates the rule of law. It is both illegal and immoral to organize the killing of every child in the Soviet Union in the name of national security. Every nuclear weapon is its own Auschwitz.

By these standards we declare that our government is engaged in an illegal and immoral activity, namely the production and deployment of nuclear weapons. Therefore, we cannot and will not collaborate with it. We make the same assertion relative to the Soviet government and all other nations that possess or intend to produce nuclear weapons.

We are deeply troubled, even as we discuss the danger of annihilation, that millions in our nation are without jobs, hundreds of thousands are homeless, sick and hungry. It is obscene in this situation further to undermine the health of our economy and our people by massive military spending.

We pledge to work not only for National Initiative to freeze nuclear testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons, but also to work for abolition of such weapons and delivery systems--and in the final analysis, abolition of the institution of war itself. We commit ourselves to press our government and all others to use the monies saved by curtailing the arms race to provide jobs for the unemployed, health care for the sick, food for the hungry, improved education, and to help the peoples and nations of the world towards more secure and prosperous economies.

To those who say that a freeze on nuclear weapons entails risk, we say that continuation of the accelerating arms race entails the far greater risk of annihilation through miscalculation or accident and the disintegration of the world economy under the burden of arms expenditures.

We call upon all people, especially those in the military and the government, to reassess their constitutional duty to defend the public interest, human rights and human life. We suggest for all of us a study of alternative security systems for our country. These would include 1) the creation of arms control and disarmament agreements that would lead to ending military aid and to reduction of armaments; 2) economic measures on behalf of the disadvantaged at home and abroad and 3) a joint effort by the United States and the Soviet Union together with other nations to implement world disarmament.

We know all men and women of good will share our concerns. We have read the statements of Soviet and American leaders, of Jewish, Protestant, Roman Catholic and other religious authorities; it is clear from both political and religious perspectives that if we are to survive we must move beyond words. This statement itself has the force of an action only if it leads us to action.

To summarize what we are saying: We call on our nation, and all other nuclear nations, to BAN THE BOMB, MEET HUMAN NEEDS. And until our government decides to adopt this legal and moral course we urge our fellow Americans to follow a policy of non-collaboration. We promise to participate in and support actions of non-collaboration, ranging from moderate ones that involve minor risk to major nonviolent acts of civil disobedience.

Typical of the acts of non-collaboration that we envision--and hope that anti-war organizations will consider, are:

1) A demonstration in front of Congress under the slogan "Jobs, not Bombs" to prod Congress into adopting the National Initiative to cut off all funds for testing, manufacture, and deployment of nuclear weapons and delivery systems. Such a demonstration may include civil disobedience.

2) Mass withholding of a certain percentage of income tax and telephone tax.

3) National and local actions to dramatize the futility of civil defense.

4) Non-collaboration with registration for the draft, and statements of complicity by those not eligible for the draft, including support for young people who have not complied.

5) A national day of meditation in which, instead of our normal activity, we reflect, discuss, and act on the arms race.

6) A special conference on civil disobedience to promote a national campaign of nonviolent resistance.

7) Work for adoption of the Nuremburg standards into local, state and federal law.

8) Promote a Hippocratic oath for scientists and comparable moral commitments for other workers to renounce participation in work on weapons of mass destruction.

9) We join with peoples throughout the world to declare nuclear-free zones especially in those areas where outside powers are seeking to test or install new nuclear systems. We call upon nations directly and upon people within their own nations and local areas to announce such nuclear-free zones.

10) Acceleration of normal anti-war activity, such as increased lobbying, leafletting, vigils, teach-ins, civil disobedience, and local demonstrations around a central slogan, BAN THE BOMB, MEET HUMAN NEEDS.

Some two hundred years ago small bands of citizens in this and other societies throughout the globe took upon themselves the political project of ridding the world of the inequity and evil of chattel slavery. These efforts were considered by the overwhelming numbers of their contemporaries to be, at best idealistic and highly utopian, and at worst a destruction of property values and unwarranted revolution. Yet within one hundred years these efforts culminated in a global social movement which abolished the moral and legal authority of slavery.

In the face of a world-wide escalating arms race which has a high likelihood of ending in a destruction of human civilization, and perhaps humanity itself, and in recognition of the inability of leaders of nation-states to deal with these circumstances, we believe it is necessary for ordinary citizens to focus on the abolition of war as a concrete political project. We understand the enormousness of the enterprise and the difficulties and sacrifices it will demand of us as individuals and communities. But it is our belief that nothing less than a serious, sustained struggle to abolish war must be the overriding goal of our political, social and moral life.

It is in this spirit that we call upon the citizens of the United States to join in an Agenda of Non-Collaboration with their and other governments who in the name of deterrence, national defense, and national security perpetuate the war system.

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