The Ad Hoc Committee for a Safe Boston Harbor is committed to revitalizing Boston's economy and providing productive jobs for unemployed and underemployed workers. These jobs, however, can be provided through nonnuclear, nonmilitary development plans for the Boston area. Such jobs would include the proposed construction of ocean thermal ships, which could provide up to 27,000 shipbuilding jobs and, at the same time, decrease the national dependence on foreign oil reserves.

Gunboat Diplomacy

Charles Myers, a munitions consultant who led the campaign to bring these ships out of mothballs, argues, "at a time when we have to worry most about conflicts in the third world, the most important nonnuclear function of the Department of the Navy. . . is forcible entry." The *Iowa*'s nonnuclear weaponry includes nine 68-foot, 16-inch diameter guns. These guns, which are the largest, most powerful afloat, are capable of hurling 2,300 pound shells a distance of 23 miles; these shells can penetrate four feet of concrete from a distance of 20 miles. For lesser tasks, the *Iowa* has twelve 5-inch guns.

The *Iowa*'s guns are not being deployed for the purpose of intimidating the governments of Greenland, Iceland, Ireland or Britain. Nor do they serve any purpose in ship-to-ship fighting. In the event of a crisis, however, the *Iowa* task force can be integrated into a Rapid Deployment Force and dispatched, with its nuclear missiles and "conventional" guns targeted against people, resources and governments of the Middle East or North Africa. Lt. Governor Kerry warns that although the fleet will be stationed primarily in the North Atlantic Ocean, the possibility of its use in Latin America should not be discounted.

The people of Massachusetts have long opposed wars of foreign intervention. The Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution are calls to freedom and the right of self-determination. People in other countries, like the people of the United States, have the right to choose the kind of government that they want and how to use their limited resources.

The Ad Hoc Committee for a Safe Boston Harbor was formed in May 1983 for the purpose of opposing the deployment of the battleship *Iowa* task force. This committee opposes the deployment of the task force in Boston, Rhode Island, New York, or any other location. It believes that the mandates for Jobs With Peace (72% of the Boston electorate in 1981) and for a bilateral nuclear weapons freeze (74% of the Massachusetts electorate in 1982) must be respected. The *Iowa* task force's role in the nuclear arms race, the immediate and longterm threats it poses to the people and the environment of the Boston metropolitan area, and its role in gunboat diplomacy must all be opposed.

The Ad Hoc Committee for a Safe Boston Harbor has been organized through the efforts of many people in the Boston area. The committee has initiated a debate over the homeporting proposal in the press and forced the recognition that the *Iowa* will be carrying dangerous strategic weapons. It has held public meetings and a teach-in on Boston Common, presented testimony before the Boston City Council, won the support of four Boston mayoral candidates, and mapped out a multifaceted campaign for summer and fall of 1983.

The Steering Committee includes representatives from the American Friends Service Committee, Bay State Center for Economic Conversion, Cambridge Interfaith Peace Council, CPPAX, Episcopal Peace Coalition, Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility, Greenpeace, Jobs With Peace, Massachusetts Council for a Nuclear Weapons Freeze, Mobilization for Survival, and Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament.

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