

prompted the AEC to initiate a public relations campaign: "Atoms for Peace". Nuclear power was promoted as the savior of humanity, the final solution to starvation, poverty and war. Behind a facade of developing the nuclear power dream, the AEC spent billions of federal tax dollars on facilities necessary for further weapons production.

A reluctant utility industry finally cooperated with AEC plans for nuclear power development when (1) laws were passed freeing utilities of liability for nuclear disasters, (2) rate laws were changed to make nuclear power the most profitable alternative for utilities, and (3) billions in federal subsidies and investment guarantees became available. In this way, public concern over the development of nuclear weapons led the AEC to promote and subsidize nuclear power, which in turn led to heavy investment in nuclear power by US business. Today, the profitable export of nuclear power technology and the theft of nuclear materials is resulting in metastatic proliferation of nuclear weapons: the purchase of a nuclear power plant provides a country with plutonium, and thus, nuclear weapons.

Nuclear power and nuclear weapons are two faces of the nuclear coin. They share both an intimate past and a capacity for disaster beyond imagination.

THE NECESSITY OF DISARMAMENT

A single 20 megaton bomb dropped on Boston would result in an estimated 2,250,000 deaths from the blast and ensuing fire storm alone. This figure does not include deaths due to acute radiation sickness, miscarriage, stillbirth, leukemia, cancer, or inherited genetic disease. There would be 1,500,000 people requiring emergency medical care, while 90% of the doctors and other health professionals would be killed or injured themselves. Hospital facilities, electricity and uncontaminated water would be virtually nonexistent.