20TH CENTURY REFORMATION HOUR
Collingswood, New Jersey

May 19, 1969

My dear Radio Friend:

The Safeguard Anti-ballistic-missiles System ran into strong opposition in the National Council of Churches. The General Board of the Council, meeting in New York City May 2nd, took one of its boldest actions in all the history of the Council. It questioned "its necessity for national security, its effect on the arms race and disarmament negotiations generally, its implication for the Non-proliferation Treaty, its cost, and its drain upon national resources."

Now that the Communists are moving in their military might to where they "are going for a first-strike" they could literally destroy all the defenses of the United States. The Safeguard System makes possible the protection of these defenses so that retaliation would be possible, and as long as retaliation is possible, the Communists will never strike. Their only fear is of us.

The National Council of Churches' General Board is an official body speaking on behalf of its member churches. This includes 40 million Americans in 33 national church bodies in this country. Every single National Council church member in this country must know that the NCC speaks for him.

David Lawrence, editor of U. S. News & World Report, in his May 12th editorial, entitled, "Gambling with the Security of the American People," opened his discussion:

"One of the most discouraging developments observed in current history is the opposition being manifested today against the President's plan to strengthen our anti-ballistic-missile system and protect the United States against nuclear attack."

Then he said: "It is time to present the case for safety--for the protection of our people, so many millions of whom could be wiped out by a single nuclear blast."

He added: "Looking at the world situation today, it is not possible to brush aside Soviet military power as no real menace. Nor is it sensible to dismiss Soviet intrigue and subversion as a 'myth.'"

"We are at this very moment faced with hostile attitudes in both hemispheres. The Soviets have virtually taken possession of Cuba and have bases there to which missiles can be shipped secretly in violation of the agreement reached in 1962 to remove such equipment. Throughout Latin America, moreover, as well as in Africa, the Soviet apparatus of infiltration is at work.

"What is the purpose of all this? The answer is that the Communists are ambitious to acquire control of many small countries as a means of harassing the United States and its allies.

"Both the Soviet Union and Red China have spent billions aiding the North Vietnamese."

Speaking of Europe, he says we have "an even greater menace. The Soviet Union has shown clearly that it regards the countries of Eastern Europe as an integral part of the Communist empire. Their sovereignty has been violated.

"The safety of the nations of Western Europe is being threatened. What more natural piece of strategy for the Soviet Government to adopt than to bring on critical situations in Europe so as to keep America's military strength dispersed?"