PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Friend:

Winter. One of the four seasons; part of a natural cycle of dormancy and growth.

Winter conjures up pleasant thoughts of sunny and cold days and warm fires -- all the more pleasant because of the spring to follow.

But now we confront a different kind of winter, a nuclear winter, one that could end life as we know it. Within weeks of a nuclear exchange:

* Millions of tons of dust, soot and smoke from burning cities and forests would radically reduce the sun's heat and light reaching the earth's surface;

* In many areas across the planet, temperatures would drop to below freezing and stay there for an extended period even during normally warm months;

* On many parts of the earth's surface, photosynthesis would be almost impossible, leading to a breakdown of the food chain;

* Human and animal survivors of a nuclear war would starve or die of thirst as surface waters froze over;

* Howling winds would increase the chance of exposure to radioactive fallout;

* Urban fires would generate enormous amounts of dangerous toxins by vaporizing the large quantities of chemicals stored in cities.

All this after the millions that would perish immediately from blast, burns, heat, falling and travelling debris, radiation. A nuclear winter is a fearsome prospect almost too horrifying to imagine. Yet as scientists now tell us, those who survive the initial exchange of nuclear weapons may themselves all die in the weeks that follow.

Human life on the planet could end.

Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) has long educated Americans to the biological effects of nuclear holocaust. You may have heard our message describing the millions of casualties that would be generated by even a single nuclear weapon as a result of devastating blast, searing heat, and radioactive fallout.

Now, in the wake of new scientific evidence of the possible global

(over, please)

639 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139, (617) 491-2754