

STATEMENT (EDITED) OF BRADFORD LYTTLE ON THE FOUNDING OF THE UNITED STATES PACIFIST
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The two most serious issues facing the American people are the nuclear arms race, that threatens nuclear war, and the country's weakened economy, that has left millions unemployed. Both problems can be traced to the principle of military force, and military institutions.

The nuclear arms race is a product of post-World War II history. The Allied military victory, that destroyed the global threats of Naziism and Japanese imperialism, left the vast majority of Americans convinced that overwhelming military superiority, over every conceivable enemy, was the key to American security, peace, and prosperity. Since Japanese surrender had followed the use of two atomic bombs, it was widely believed that nuclear weapons had made unnecessary a land invasion of Japan, and therefore had saved hundreds of thousands of American and Japanese lives. From that reasoning, it was not far to making nuclear weapons central to American military power, and to the idea that the mere threat to use these weapons was a sure "deterrence" against any attack or aggression against vital American interests.

Since Einstein's equation* wasn't exclusively American property, the Russians quickly built nuclear weapons, too. When the U.S. then sought security in the vastly greater power of thermonuclear weapons, so did the Soviet Union. Now, a half dozen nations have constructed atomic weapons, and many more have the capacity to do so. There are more than 50,000 nuclear bombs in the world. The means for delivering them cannot be frustrated, and are achieving pinpoint accuracy.

Nuclear deterrence, the foundation of United States foreign policy, is based on the simple assumption that if one's own weapons are destructive and terrifying enough, no "enemy" will dare to attack or threaten one's vital interests. Many military strategists maintain that nuclear weapons can be rationally controlled - that there's a condition that they call "stable deterrence". Some strategists suggest that nuclear war can be kept "limited" or even "won".

The belief that nuclear wars can be kept limited is categorically denied by Robert S. McNamara, McGeorge Bundy, George F. Kennan, and other American military authorities. The people of Europe, particularly of West Germany, who see their homes as the laboratory for "limited nuclear war", are becoming increasingly horrified at the prospect. It's clear to them that universal destruction and death will be the result of any nuclear war.

The idea of stable deterrence neglects a simple principle of probability theory. Deterrence depends on making a threat and taking a risk. It can be mathematically demonstrated that if even a very small risk is repeatedly taken over a long enough period of time, the probability of the event in question occurring approaches certainty. For this reason, stable deterrence doesn't exist. The failure probability of all antagonistic nuclear weapons systems approaches certainty. Nuclear deterrence isn't the safest foreign policy available, it's one of the most dangerous. It has brought into being enormous, unstable weapons systems that

* $E = mc^2$