Alliance for Our Common Future

working for a just world community, healthy global environment and effective structures for peace

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TO: Issue Activists October, 1990

FROM: Sarah Harder, Co-Chair
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RE: Pressing Policy-makers Toward Peacemaking--An Election Strategy

The Alliance for Our Common Future asks you to direct some of your organizational clout this fall to reshaping the election debate. Use these issue brochures to raise urgent questions about U.S. priorities. Framed by experts, the questions and answers represent a growing consensus for policy change. We hope you will reproduce the brochures and distribute them widely. Use them to complement your own materials. Raise a citizen chorus which national policy-makers cannot ignore.

Events in the Middle East show how the U.S. has been programmed to respond to Cold War cues. The deep concerns about our domestic security, challenges in the global economy and environment seem to have disappeared along with hopes for a peace dividend and S&L outrage.

But we believe that Americans have unspoken questions for policy-makers and that they seek responsible answers. For example:

Q: In dealing with Iraq, do you believe the U.S. should press for a United Nations force supported by fair-share assessments to confront the aggression?

A: A UN-led force ties the world community to an effective multi-national security system, apportioning costs and establishing a post-Cold War precedent. A full-scale U.S. military operation undermines support from other nations, builds anti-U.S. sentiment, and places costs on U.S. taxpayers.

This fall's election season provides a rare chance to reshape the national debate. Our question is whether public opinion and policy-makers can be moved to address the consequences of choices the U.S. is making -- and avoiding.

Our answer is that opinion can be shaped by leaders. Our assumption is that a growing consensus for peacetime priorities is there to be tapped nationwide. Our conviction is that citizens who care can make a difference, can even challenge the winds of war.

No single organization, no single issue coalition can address that challenge alone. However, by linking our expertise, our energies, our diverse voices, we show we are not special interests but majority interests--connected currents in a mainstream that cannot be ignored. How will you help? How can we help each other and our nation toward a just and lasting peace?