We Call for Nuclear Disarmament

The continued possession, further development, and manufacture of nuclear weapons by the United States undermines the ethical basis of our society, breaks treaties our nation has signed, wastes our nation’s wealth, and permanently contaminates our environment, while providing no real contribution to U.S. national security.

In fact, implicit and explicit nuclear threats by the U.S. undermine global efforts to halt proliferation of not just nuclear weapons, but all weapons of mass destruction. Neither can our nuclear facilities ever be made fully secure from accident, internal sabotage, theft, or attack.

New Mexico’s two nuclear weapons labs lead the world in spending for weapons of mass destruction. But as the labs have grown, our state’s relative economic standing has declined and now trails almost all other states.

We therefore call upon our elected leaders to:

C. Stop the design and manufacture of all nuclear weapons, including plutonium bomb cores (“pits”) at Los Alamos and elsewhere.

D. Dismantle our nuclear arsenal in concert with other nuclear powers, pursuant to Article VI of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. As the most powerful nation on earth, the U.S. must take the first steps in this process.

C. Halt disposal of nuclear waste at Los Alamos, as thousands of citizens and dozens of environmental organizations have already requested.

We demand quite different priorities: affordable health care for everyone, better education, renewable energy, and economic opportunity for those who have none. We call for investment in our people and families, in our economy and environment, instead of in preparation for nuclear war.

Signature _____________________________
Printed Name __________________________
Address ________________________________
City, State, Zip __________________________
Telephone ______________________________
Email _________________________________

Additional Information for Endorsements by Businesses, Churches, & Organizations:

Organization ____________________________
Your Title ______________________________

Please return all signed petitions to the address below.
Contact us for more information, more petitions or brochures (also available at www.lasg.org), to volunteer in this campaign, to schedule a speaker for your organization, or to help support this campaign financially or in other ways.

Los Alamos Study Group: www.lasg.org
2901 Summit Place NE - Albuquerque, NM 87106
505-265-1200 voice  505-265-1207 fax  gmello@lasg.org
(or call our Santa Fe office at 505-795-8025)
To resist militarism, resist it in New Mexico

Many of us are appalled by the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq. We also understand all too well the profound dangers posed by increasing militarism in our society and we want to do something effective about it.

“There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.”
– Unanimous judgment of the International Court of Justice, 1996, “Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons.”

opinions and occasional acts of protest about militarism and wars far away will carry very little political weight. To resist militarism, its authoritarian consequences, or to try to promote peace in New Mexico without clearly and publicly rejecting the growing nuclear weapons industry for which our state is known all over the world, is like trying to clean up our house without moving the huge pile of manure in the kitchen. No one will take such feeble work seriously.

Therefore we must first and foremost concern ourselves with militarism and war in New Mexico, and specifically reject nuclear weapons, if working for peace and justice is to have any meaning at all.

As noted on the cover of this brochure, most Americans in fact do reject nuclear weapons (see University of Maryand, “Americans on WMD Proliferation,” April 15, 2004, at http://www.pipa.org/OnlineReports/WMD/WMDreport_04_15_04.pdf). But attitudes mean little unless they are expressed in effective political organization. By signing this petition and recruiting others, you help create that political strength.

“The Conference agrees on...[a]n unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties are committed under article VI.”
– from the consensus agreement of all NPT signatories present at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, including the U.S., Russia, China, France, and the U.K.

In New Mexico, militarism is nuclear

In New Mexico, militarism comes primarily in the shape of a mushroom cloud. It is a shape that has been particularly damaging to our nation’s, and our state’s society, political institutions, and environment.

Our state is home to the two best-funded nuclear weapons facilities in the world: Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). Almost half of U.S. nuclear warhead spending for occurs in New Mexico, making nuclear warheads are our state’s largest industry, in dollar terms. Their share of our state’s total economic activity is 20 times more than in any other state. There are also more intact nuclear weapons stored in New Mexico (at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque) than in any other state or for that matter, at any other location in the world.

For all these reasons, New Mexico is indeed the “world capital of weapons of mass destruction,” and we are the people who tolerate this state of affairs, undercutting any and all of our other efforts for peace, justice, and social uplift.

Our official acquiescence to nuclear weapons has not brought us wealth. For more than 20 years, we have received more net per capita federal funds than all other states. But as the labs have grown through the largesse of congressional committees often led by our state’s representatives – New Mexico’s relative standing in economic and human well-being has declined, to at or near the very bottom of all U.S. states.

In effect, we have allowed ourselves to become an economic and political colony, exercising little actual sovereignty of our own in return for the federal dole. Federal and corporate managers now control or have veto power over too many New Mexico assets, loyalties and policies, leading to rule by bureaucratic administrators instead of government by, and for, New Mexicans.

Current military spending will take an average of $5,100 from each U.S. household this year, plus about $800 in interest for past military spending. All this money goes to feed a “national security” state which provides far more violence, fear, and want than it does actual security – especially in New Mexico, which excels in poverty and all that goes with it.

As a result of these realities, the state of New Mexico really has only one choice with respect to the nuclear weapons industry it harbors: to be the continuing victim of this industry, or to forge a new political and moral identity based on respect for the human person. Such a new identity would be intellectually, morally, economically, and politically incompatible with support for nuclear deterrence and the nuclear weapons industry. It is also the necessary core basis for economic, social, and spiritual renewal in this or any state.

A political identity based on respect for human beings will come about when businesses, churches, organizations, and individuals realize, suddenly, that they can no longer live, work, study, worship, or conduct business without such a foundation. For those businesses and other organizations to whom that realization does not come too late, it will be like a fog dissolving in sunshine, like waking from a dream.

No disarmament, no environmental cleanup

The old nuclear dump sites in Los Alamos will never be cleaned up while new dumps, more or less exactly like the old ones, are still being created and filled at the same facility. Thousands of citizens and dozens of environmental organizations recruited by the Study Group have requested an end to the dumping based on clear legal and environmental requirements, but all these petitions have been officially and totally ignored.

Why? The nuclear lords in Washington have flat-out told the New Mexico Environment Department that continued dumping, law or no law, is simply not negotiable. They have also sued the State to destroy New Mexico’s remaining authority to regulate most of the waste their industry generates statewide, as part of a multi-state strategy to avoid cleanup and disempower opposition throughout the U.S. to further dumping. For the past two years, secret negotiations have been underway that will “resolve” these lawsuits.

Realistically, nuclear dumping will never end here or anywhere until nuclear weapons design and production, which produces the vast bulk of the waste at Los Alamos and is expected to make much more soon, likewise come to an end. Once the waste is made it must be disposed somewhere. The upshot? If no disarmament – then dumping, not cleanup.