



People for Nuclear Disarmament (NSW)

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PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE TO READ THIS IMPORTANT LETTER
FROM THE AUSTRALIAN PEACE MOVEMENT.

Greetings!

Breakthroughs in arms reduction talks and events in Eastern Europe have led to a perception that the issues of peace and disarmament are less urgent. It is certainly true that we have taken at least a few steps back from the abyss of nuclear oblivion. Yet, as I write, there are over 20 conventional wars going on around the world. As a planet we continue to spend \$1.8 million every minute on weapons. It is variously estimated that between 50-70% of the worlds scientists are engaged in weapons research. Despite claims that since 1945 nuclear weapons have kept the peace, over 20 million people, children, women and men, have died from war.

For years the peace movement has campaigned for a change in the bloc mentality and an end to the arms race. At last our wishes have become a partial reality. However, under the recent INF treaty agreement only 4% of the worlds nuclear stockpiles are being destroyed. This still leaves over 50,000 nuclear weapons in existence. If on-going talks are successful then this will come down to 25,000, 24,998 more than the two needed to destroy Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Whether by accident or design there are no second chances with a nuclear war. As well as the Superpowers, Britain, France and China have nuclear weapons not subject to reduction talks. Britain and France are actually increasing the size of their nuclear arsenals to compensate for the withdrawal of American weapons from Europe (France is trebling the size of the Force de Frappe). It is widely believed that Israel and South Africa have nuclear weapons; hardly stable parts of the world. Pakistan, India, Argentina and Brazil are all nuclear capable should the will exist. As nuclear technology becomes more accessible the spread of nuclear weapons would seem inevitable without stringent safeguards.

Both the Soviet Union and the United States continue to test and develop a new generation of more lethal and accurate nuclear weapons. The US is producing 4 new warheads a day. Despite some budget cuts Star Wars research continues unabated (\$3.8 billion in 1990). The presence of an ever increasing number of sea launched nuclear weapons, most independently controlled by ship and submarine commanders, has yet to be addressed in arms talks. \$156 billion is being spent on 19 new Trident Submarines each with 24 missiles each missile with 8 independently targetable warheads. The Pentagons budget for this year is a massive \$298 billion. The French continue to pollute our backyard with testing at Moruroa and Fangataufa atolls. The chances for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty look as slim as ever.

As a planet we face grave environmental problems. To its credit the Australian government has allocated \$7.8 million for Greenhouse research over the next two years. Yet, compare this with the massive Australian military budget of \$8.327 billion for 1990 and the \$230 million spent on last years Kangaroo 89 exercise alone: all this at a time of almost zero military threat. In addition the government is now seeking to get actively involved in arms exports as demonstrated by the AIDEX arms bazaar recently held in Canberra (a second AIDEX is already planned for 1991). We urgently need a change in priorities if we are to solve the urgent challenges that we now face.

People for Nuclear Disarmament (N.S.W.) is a coalition of individuals, local peace groups, churches, trade unions, women's educational and environmental organisations working for a non-aligned nuclear-free future.

An alarming military buildup is taking place in the Asian Pacific region, with Australia being very much a part of this evolving scenario. A new Australian militarism is evident with all the danger the very possession of a strong military ability entails. The situations in PNG, Korea, the Philippines and other Pacific nations could all witness Australia becoming unnecessarily embroiled in a regional conflict unless we remain alert.

Despite an easing of superpower tensions, Australia is becoming even more involved in the nuclear network. Leases on foreign military bases have been extended, the visits of nuclear powered and armed warships continue, and uranium mining is in danger of being even further expanded should a favourable economic climate exist. So it goes on.

The peace movement needs to remain viable if we are to hold our own and world leaders accountable. People for Nuclear Disarmament has always been more than a group of people and organizations concerned with nuclear disarmament, although this is as crucial as ever. We have working groups active in promoting peace education in our schools, promoting the need for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, trying to stop the visits of nuclear powered and armed ships; also a group working towards alerting the public to the new Australian Militarism. We work closely with the Anti-Bases coalition and are heavily involved in the Movement against Uranium Mining. We have plans this year to become more active in promoting the disarmament work of the United Nations, and to raise awareness on the war toys issue. We are very involved in the Nuclear Free Zones movement and the movement for a Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific.

RIGHT NOW WE DESPERATELY NEED YOUR HELP. WE ARE IN DANGER OF HAVING TO CURTAIL OUR OPERATIONS DUE TO A SEVERE LACK OF FUNDS. IF YOU CARE ABOUT PEACE ISSUES THEN PLEASE GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO HELPING US FINANCIALLY BY JOINING US DURING THIS CRUCIAL PERIOD. WE ACHIEVE RESULTS FAR OUTWEIGHING OUR RESOURCES. WE HAVE ONE FULL-TIME AND TWO PART-TIME WORKERS. WE ARE FAR FROM BEING A BUREAUCRACY. IF YOU CHOOSE TO JOIN WE WILL SEND YOU 6 COPIES OF PEACE ACTION EACH YEAR. MEMBERSHIP RATES ARE BELOW. JUST \$250 ENTITLES YOU TO MEMBERSHIP UNTIL YEAR 2000

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS LETTER. TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE, BUT HISTORY HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT UNLESS WE ARE EVER VIGILANT THEN THE MISERY AND SUFFERING THAT IS WAR IS ONLY EVER A MOMENT AWAY.

Yours towards peace, Kevin Parker (Co-ordinator PND N.S.W.)

Kevin Parker

YES I/WE WISH TO ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION AND SUPPORT YOUR VITAL PEACE EDUCATIONAL AND DISARMAMENT WORK.

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND MY CHEQUE FOR \$..... IN LINE WITH THE TABLE BELOW OR PLEASE DEBIT MY BANKCARD/MASTERCARD NUMBER..... I/WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO GIVE A DONATION OF \$..... I/WE WOULD LIKE TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN STRIVING FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT BY SUPPORTING YOUR WORK UNTIL THE YEAR 2000 \$.....

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