



# ARIZONA NEWSLETTER

## Doctors for Disaster Preparedness

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1601 N. Tucson Blvd. Suite 9, Tucson, AZ 85716

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## FAMINE IN THE US?

"Without functioning transportation, no food will come into the stricken area; remaining undestroyed stocks will be depleted rapidly." (H.J. Geiger, in *The Final Epidemic*, Educational Foundation for Nuclear Science, Chicago, 1981).

The problem of food shortages after a nuclear war might also be exacerbated by climatic effects ("nuclear fall"). Although even the most left-wing scientists are somewhat embarrassed by the nuclear winter fraud, and concede that effects might be "milder than at first predicted," small drops in temperature, if they occurred at critical points of the growing season, could cause significant crop loss. There is also the possibility of reduced agricultural production in the second year due to disturbances in rainfall patterns (C. Chester, presentation at 1987 TACDA conference.)

The treatment proposed by Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) for this very realistic problem is to assure the *maximum possible number of casualties in a nuclear attack*: "The grim paradox at the heart of civil defense ... is this: In any major exchange between nuclear superpowers, that nation with the largest number of survivors after the war is the worst off ... because it has the largest number of people competing for the shattered resource base," including food supplies (H.J. Geiger, *Myth and Immorality of Civil Defense*.)

Is it possible then that a nation currently awash in surpluses could face starvation in the event of nuclear war?

Indeed it is possible. And if it were to happen, the US might rightly become a notorious example of foolishness for the enlightenment of the schoolchildren of future civilizations.

Food storage technology has been known for millenia. In Biblical times, Joseph persuaded Pharaoh to store grain from the seven good years, enough to provide for seven years of famine. During those lean years, people came from the entire region in search of Egyptian grain to buy.

Could the US spare some grain to store near population centers for times of emergency?

A FEMA study, completed in 1985 but unpublished, shows that US farms grow 25 billion bushels of grain annually, enough to feed our present population for 10 years. (Much of this grain is currently used to feed livestock, but it is suitable for human consumption.) A four-year supply of grain is currently in storage, though most of it is in remote areas and would be unavailable without transportation.

Storage of foil-packed cereal grains in nutritionally optimal combinations costs about \$12 per person-month of food

(H. Maccabee, 1987 meeting of DDP). The cost of a year's supply of food for 225,000,000 people is thus about \$30 billion. However, this much food and more is already being stored. If it were dispersed into the civil defense system, the storage costs would be *no greater than the amount already being spent*. Moreover, part of the food surplus would be removed from world markets, where it is currently depressing the price of farm commodities. By reducing the need for farm subsidies, a food storage program might result in a net savings to the government, which now allocates about \$50 billion annually to the Department of Agriculture.

The cost of saving a year of life by storing food (in the event of famine) should be compared with the cost-effectiveness of other life-saving measures (see p. 2).

If you think that the US should have an insurance program to protect against famine from whatever cause, including nuclear war, you might wish to urge your Senator to support the Symms Civil Defense Resolution (SR 314). Ask your Congressman to cosponsor HR 311, which directs the Department of Agriculture to present to the Congress a report on a food storage program.

## NEW VIDEOS

The DDP Arizona library has received a gift of outstanding videos, excellent for social studies classes, meetings, study groups, club programs, etc. To arrange to borrow a tape, call 325-2689. Summaries and ordering information available for a SASE. (Give your school a gift!)

**Message from Hell:** A conversation with Black Panther and hijacker Tony Bryant, after 12 years in Cuban prisons.

**Telling it Like It Is:** What Congress wouldn't allow Oliver North to say on television.

**Soviet Subversion of the Free World Press** with former KGB propagandist Yuri Bezmenov (who was not allowed to cross the Canadian border to attend a recent DDP meeting).

**The KGB Connections:** an investigation into Soviet operations in North America.

**Blast Shelter Tour:** A 35 minute tour of the Fighting Chance demonstration shelter, constructed by Arthur Robinson from a fuel storage tank. This insurance policy, good for many years at a cost of less than \$300 per life, could enable 30 people to survive at Ground Zero in the event of an airburst. Important construction principles and details are discussed.

## IS CIVIL DEFENSE COST-EFFECTIVE?

Senator Edward Kennedy, in response to a letter from DDP, stated that he felt "fallout shelters were not a cost-effective means of protecting the American public from a nuclear attack." In general, lack of cost-effectiveness is frequently argued by opponents of *any and all defenses against nuclear attack*.

Cost-effectiveness is by its very nature a comparative measure. The cost per life saved by various methods has been compiled by Dr. Bernard Cohen, Professor of Physics at the University of Pittsburgh:

<u>Method</u>	<u>\$/life saved</u>
Immunizations (Indonesia)	\$ 210
Improved sanitation (3rd world)	4,030
Cervical cancer screening	50,000
Breast cancer screening	160,000
Hypertension control	150,000
Kidney dialysis	400,000
Mobile ICUs in small towns	120,000
Improved traffic signs	31,000
Upgrade guard rails (highways)	101,000
High level radioactive waste: strict precautions vs random burial with simple precautions	220,000,000
Stricter safety standards for nuclear reactors, compared with <u>prior standards</u>	<u>\$2,500,000,000</u>

(Dr. Cohen's complete discussion on "Reducing the Hazards of Nuclear Power -- Insanity in Action" is available free from the USCEA, 1776 I St. NW #400, Washington, DC 20006. Note: the reason for the high cost of "regulatory ratcheting" by the NRC is the fact that peaceful nuclear energy causes so few deaths to begin with.)

Given the media attention now focused on cholesterol, it is worth noting that the cost of saving *one year of life* with cholestyramine treatment of hypercholesterolemia ranges from \$36,000 to \$1,000,000, depending on the risk group (*JAMA* 258:2381). Compare this with the cost of one year of food storage (\$144/person) or a space in a blast shelter (\$200 or more) or an SDI program capable of saving 50 million lives for \$50 billion (\$1000/life saved).

## CD IN PIMA COUNTY

**Water Supply:** "All primary city pumping stations have emergency power, and there are sufficient portable generators, pumps, etc. available to maintain water supplies and other emergency power requirements. *Fuel is not stockpiled*"

**Food Supply:** "There is *no emergency food storage*."

**Medical Equipment:** "The packaged disaster hospital located in Cochise County was allocated to us...[but] this entire commitment was put on hold by the unexpected transfer of [DMAFB commanding officers]." (Pima County Division of Emergency Services, personal communication, emphasis added.)

## CHERNOBYL AND SOVIET CD

Many Western commentators were puzzled by the delay in the evacuation of the population near Chernobyl. Actually, recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) were followed. These call for evacuation if the integrated dose commitment for individuals is expected to reach 75 Rem. On April 26, radiation levels in Pripjat were 10 mRem/hr, not sufficient to predict the need for evacuation. The level rose to 1000 mRem/hr, and evacuation commenced on April 27. The average dose commitment received by residents of Pripjat was 3 Rem, less than the annual exposure permitted for a radiation worker. Persons living between 3 and 15 km from the plant received an average of 43 Rem, a dose predicted to increase the risk of dying of cancer from a normal of about 16.7% to about 17.2%. Those outside the evacuation zone received about 0.5 Rem, the increased dose accrued by living in Denver for 10 years instead of Washington, DC. *The total worldwide health effects will probably be less than the effect of one year's combustion of fossil fuels in the USSR* (R. Wilson, *Science* 236:1636-1640).

In an interview on *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, May, 1987, Vladimir Leonidovich Govorov, chief of USSR civil defense, commented that "scientific ... progress has fantastically increased the potential for producing goods.... Unfortunately, the scale on which people are affected by accidents...has increased as a result. The Indian city of Bhopal, our Chernobyl, show the need to further improve civil defense."

Govorov stated further that while nuclear war would be a "great misfortune," population protection will "without doubt considerably reduce the number of human lives lost."

## SOVIET COST-EFFECTIVENESS

Recently, Soviet industry delivered its newborn missile: precise and mobile intercontinental SS-24. A few months earlier, the most powerful booster in the world -- Energia-- was successfully employed. Evidently, the Soviet military-space babies are in good health....

But what about human babies? In a recent interview in *Pravda*, one medical official admitted that the situation is worse than horrible. The equipment of Soviet obstetricians consists mostly of a measuring tape, stethoscope, and forceps. Delivery wards should have at least 60 types of medical instruments. Soviet industry makes only six types and no money is available to import the remaining 54.

There are no disposable items at all. The linens ... in many cases are hand-washed....Infection is always present, and thousands of healthy women and babies die. To hide these facts, the Ministry of Health plays with statistics. According to international rules, a newborn is counted if his weight is more than 500 grams, but the Soviets start counting at 1000 grams and even that cannot improve the picture: Mortality of Soviet babies is the same as in Uganda.

Yuri Tuvim