



# ARIZONA NEWSLETTER

## Doctors for Disaster Preparedness

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## BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT PROLIFERATES

Nineteen Third World countries (and Israel) currently possess or are striving to develop ballistic missiles, which can potentially carry nuclear warheads. Although the INF Treaty is claimed to "zero out" a whole class of missiles, it does nothing to prevent other nations from acquiring the same type of missiles that the US is giving up (*Washington Inquirer* 4/8/88).

China has sold missiles with a range of 1600 miles to Saudi Arabia, and Libya and Syria are also negotiating to obtain Chinese missiles. The Soviet Union has exported more than 1000 surface-to-surface missiles since 1968. About 250 ballistic missiles, mostly Soviet-built, have been used in the Iran-Iraq war. India's Prithvi missiles can reach most targets in Pakistan (*Wall Street Journal* 7/21/88).

Aaron Karp, who leads the arms-trade project at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, suggested that exporters restrict sales of space-launch technology to nations that adhere to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Many states, including Israel, India, and France, refused to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty because of the inequality of treatment of the "haves" versus the "have-nots." Furthermore, the Treaty was violated by the United States under the Carter Administration, not only in refusing to export nuclear fuel for peaceful uses, but in *forbidding* the reprocessing of uranium to plutonium, an activity that was originally *required* by the Treaty.

Although the Non-Proliferation Treaty has hampered the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in nations like Japan and Switzerland (whose request for permission to have fuel reprocessed in France was delayed by US bureaucrats for two years), the Treaty cannot prevent any state that wants to

make nuclear weapons from doing so. First, it does not control the original fuel source, which is uranium. Second, inspections of power stations are very formal affairs, done only after six weeks notice.

The ineffectiveness of inspection was proved in the case of the Osirak reactor in 1981. At the site of this "research" reactor were several hundred tons of depleted uranium, whose only plausible use was to be bred into plutonium. (The Iraqis were not likely to use it to paint their faces or to make pottery.) The inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency ignored the uranium, and later stated that it would have taken at least six weeks to convert the reactor to a production reactor for plutonium. The bombing of this reactor by Israel has been called "the first meaningful act of nuclear nonproliferation."

Other methods are suitable for producing bombs from uranium 235 (rather than plutonium). A centrifugal method for enriching uranium was developed independently in West Germany and South Africa. Argentina, which is not a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, has such a plant. A laser-separation method might be available soon, increasing the likelihood that small terrorist groups, as well as governments, might be able to produce their own bombs (Petr Beckmann, fourth annual meeting of DDP -- videotape and transcript are available).

Those who oppose civil defense and ballistic missile defense because of a belief that the thousands of accurate Soviet warheads are purely defensive in purpose should consider the potential for an attack from another direction. Maybe we can trust Gorbachev. Can we trust Qaddafi?

### On Militarism

"The evil of militarism is not that it shows certain men to be fierce and haughty and excessively warlike... [but] that it shows most men to be tame and timid and excessively peaceable....The military man gains the civil power in proportion as the civilian loses the military virtues....There never was a time when nations were more militarist. There never was a time when men were less brave....We have effected simultaneously the deterioration of the man and the fantastic perfection of the arms."

G. K. Chesterton, "On Mr. Rudyard Kipling"

### Anniversaries

- Aug 4, 1984.** Czechoslovakian engineering student fled paradise in a kite.
- Aug 12, 1961.** Berlin Wall begun.
- Aug 15, 1978.** Aleksander Podrabinek sentenced to 5 years for reporting Soviet psychiatric abuses.
- Aug 18, 1966.** "Cultural Revolution" inaugurated by massive demonstrations of Red Guards in Peking.
- Aug 23, 1939.** Hitler-Stalin Non-Aggression Pact signed.
- Aug 27, 1948.** Lysenko's purge of "reactionary" geneticists began.

## Civil Defense Summit

The annual meeting of DDP and TACDA will be held in Salt Lake City, October 21-24. A seminar sponsored by High Frontier, and a hospital disaster planning conference (featuring information on the packaged disaster hospitals) will precede the meeting. Honored guests include Edward Teller, Petr Beckmann, Charles Wiley, Carsten Haaland, Conrad Chester, Arthur Robinson, and Cresson Kearny. To register, write DDP, PO Box 1057, Starke, FL 32091.

## Shelter Life in Iran

Some 200,000 Iranians who cannot afford to flee bomb and missile attacks on Teheran now live in a variety of makeshift shelters. Some live on the platforms of Teheran's subway system, and some in the underground parking lots of government office buildings. The Iranian government has allocated the equivalent of \$500 million to build public shelters, but so far few have been completed. In one public shelter, 200 families live huddled together, separated only by thin curtains. Families join forces to eat at least one hot meal a day, and there are color television sets in every shelter (*Third World Week* 5/13/88).

## Cost of Disarmament

Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson is one site chosen for the destruction of billions of dollars worth of missiles. Slated for the scrap metal pile are \$2.9 billion worth of Pershing II missiles, \$2.0 billion of Pershing I missiles, and \$3 billion of ground-launched cruise missiles.

Additional costs of the INF Treaty are estimated to include:

\$2.6 billion in direct verification costs;

\$17 billion annually for enhancing (without enlarging) NATO forces; and

\$2 billion annually for enhancement of satellite verification capability.

The non-secret, identified costs of the INF treaty are estimated to be \$263.3 billion over its 13 year life, excluding any NATO force increases, according to a General Accounting Office analysis (*Washington Inquirer* 4/22/88).

## US Air Defenses Lacking

When the US decided not to defend itself against missile attacks, it also decided that it was not worthwhile to defend itself against the apparently lesser threat of bomber attacks. The Soviet Union has had a different assessment of the potential threat. The score on air defense radars is Soviets 7,000: US 91, and on surface-to-air missiles for air defense Soviets about 10,000, US 0 (zero).

The US is not out of range for Soviet bombers. At the present time, all seven of Nicaragua's principal airports are

capable of handling all Soviet fighter-bombers and long-range bombers, including the TU-95 Bear with a combat range of 5,150 miles. In the first six months of 1988, while negotiations between the Sandanistas and the Contras were in progress, 5500 metric tons of Soviet-bloc military equipment and supplies were shipped to Nicaragua. Since 1980, shipments have totaled 126,000 metric tons, or about \$2.5 billion (*Washington Times* 6/27/88).

The scrap metal from the cruise missiles would not be adequate for building air-raid shelters.

## Food Prices Soar

The theory that the US will be awash in grain surpluses into the indefinite future will possibly be refuted by the current drought, which has sent commodities prices soaring. Those who ordered food stores several months ago will still receive them at the advertised price. However, the price has increased to \$110 per person for 20 person quantities from Preparedness Products (801-292-3481). The same supply in plastic containers under nitrogen is \$198 per person. Buying the food already sealed in buckets is highly advisable if you would otherwise have to leave it in sacks under hot, humid conditions for more than a brief period. Square buckets are best, since they can also be stacked in such a way as to increase the protection factor of your shelter.

For the latest available information on protecting yourself and your family, subscribe to the *Fighting Chance Newsletter*, PO Box 1279, Cave Junction, OR 97523, \$60 for 12 issues.

## The Dollar Value of a Life

The value of an American life depends on the nature of the threat. This nation will spend \$132 million to save a life by implementing the 1979 FDA ban on DES in cattle feed and between \$1 and \$2 million to save a life from collapsible bunkbeds or disposable cigarette lighters (*Washington Times* 5/6/88). Life-saving civil defense measures, however, are considered "too expensive."

## Quotables

When the king promised amnesty to the rebels if they would lay down their arms, rebel leader Hotspur smiled ironically: "The king is kind, and well we know the king knows at what time to promise, when to pay."

Shakespeare, *Henry IV*

"To see what is in front of one's nose requires a constant struggle."

George Orwell

"It is too early to speak about a fundamental improvement of Soviet-American relations."

Mikhail Gorbachev, after the last summit