



ARIZONA NEWSLETTER

Doctors for Disaster Preparedness

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NUCLEAR MORATORIUM?

The resolution favoring a nuclear moratorium, recently passed by the Tucson City Council and the Pima County Board of Supervisors, apparently made no difference in Moscow: the Soviets announced a test shortly afterward.

Undeterred, marchers plan to keep demonstrating in Las Vegas. They will pray, "vigil," and "do civil disobedience" on Fridays in Lent.

In the view of some Nevada citizens, two of whom showed up at the test site with a sign that said, "Proud Nevada citizens sick of anti-nuke demonstrations," the marchers are waging "nonviolent" war on them. The demonstrations are costing Nye County about \$200,000 per year -- that's 8% of the entire county budget, or \$14 for every man, woman, and child in the county. The protesters insist on serving time in jail to prove their commitment. A "jail solidarity" memo was circulated, proclaiming that fines and community service work "discriminate against the poor" and serve to put money back "into the system we are working against." Protesters hope that if Nye County feels a big enough pinch, they'll transfer the burden onto the federal taxpayers. Trials in a federal court would be a publicity boon, protesters said (Los Angeles Times, Feb. 8).

Pima County Supervisors think it's a Constitutional right to violate the law, and send the bill to the taxpayers, as long as it's for the purpose of exercising free speech.

At the hearing on the resolution, a meditation instructor said a prayer, and supporters of PSR formed a circle and held up xeroxed drawings of US bombs. Witnesses favoring the resolution agreed with my statement that the purpose of current testing is to develop the x-ray laser, a weapon designed to destroy Soviet bombs en route to their targets. Harrison Barrett, of the University of Arizona, said that the development of defenses or of less destructive bombs might encourage the military to think of bombs as "weapons of war." (He didn't comment on how the military views them now.)

Before voting for the resolution, Supervisor Iris Dewhirst commented on the unprecedented horrors of the Chernobyl accident, in which, "unlike Hiroshima," people "didn't die right away." She queried whether it would ever be right for us to kill children in Europe. "If the Russians are going to kill our children, okay." (I asked her whether I had correctly understood her to say that we should just allow the Russians to kill our children, without trying to protect them. She responded to my letter with a note saying how important it was for public officials to hear from their constituents.)

NUCLEAR MYTHOMANIA

"Peace" protests, calls for a nuclear test moratorium, and opposition to strategic defense are often based on nuclear mythomania, according to Gerald Looney, MD, immediate past president of DDP. Looney frequently debates PSR spokesmen, such as Jack Geiger.

While in Tucson for the American College of Emergency Physicians meeting, Dr. Looney will speak at the **College of Medicine, Dining Room C, on Thursday, March 12, at 7:00 p.m.**

Looney recently wrote to Nye County officials: "The citizens of Pahrump and Beatty are some of the few in the entire US with the fortitude to dissent with the immensely popular 'peace' movement. I am very familiar with this movement and its way of (non)thinking, since several years ago I was one of its devoted members; but after a bit more maturity and a lot more education, I am chagrined at how simple-minded and naive I/they have been, and how very sincere and well-meaning efforts can have totally opposite effects in the real world."

RADON AND CHERNOBYL FALLOUT

Some 8000 Swedish homes have a radon level high enough to give their inhabitants an annual radiation dose equivalent to eating 7.5 tons of reindeer meat "contaminated" by cesium 137 from Chernobyl. The reindeer "had to be" slaughtered; their meat was condemned and fed to mink. See Access to Energy, December, 1986 for further details.

SOVIETS PROPAGANDIZE AGAINST SDI

"Over the past three years, the Soviet Union has devoted considerable energies to its campaign against the US SDI. Statements from high officials, interviews with Soviet spokesmen on Western broadcast media, newspaper articles,... petitions from front organizations and state-controlled Soviet scientific groups have flooded the West....

"Notably, protests and arguments against the US strategic defense program come from Soviet sources at a time when the USSR itself is vigorously engaged in its own strategic defense programs and while the Soviet Union continues to violate...the 1972 ABM Treaty.

"...every indication is that the Soviet Union values highly its current ballistic missile defense system and is enthusiastically pursuing new technologies....

"Regrettably, the Soviets have to date chosen to deny their own program..."

"It is crucial that the citizens of the democracies...recognize the distinction between honest argument and mere propaganda." -- Kenneth L. Adelman, US ACDA

For a summary of Soviet propaganda themes, citations from the Soviet literature, and the facts about the issue, write for the booklet "The Soviet propaganda campaign against the US Strategic Defense Initiative," Office of Public Affairs, US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, Washington, DC 20451.

SAKHAROV ON THE STRATEGIC BALANCE

Gorbachev has recently offered to sign an agreement to eliminate medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe within 5 years. Separate negotiation on these weapons is viewed as progress. However, Andrei Sakharov has warned about the pitfalls in losing sight of the overall strategic situation and concentrating on specific weapons systems.

"The superiority of the West in nuclear weapons has vanished. In Europe the nuclear balance has been tipped by Soviet SS-20 missiles. On the global front, the balance has been upset by hundreds of powerful Soviet silo-based missiles which are objectively first strike weapons.

"The restoration of parity in conventional weapons is necessary. That is the realistic road toward renunciation of nuclear weapons Of course you realize that this last statement is in contradiction to the West's actual strategy in the last few decades. For a long time, ... the West has not been relying on its 'conventional' armed forces as a means sufficient for repelling a potential aggressor...[and] at a time when the USSR and other countries of the socialist camp have armies with great numerical strength and are rearming them intensively, sparing no resources....

Until parity in conventional weapons has been obtained, ... the West ... will still have to add to its nuclear arsenal."

-- Andrei Sakharov, The Samizdat Bulletin, May, 1986

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Mar 4, 1977. Idi Amin thanked Soviet advisors for helping to murder Christian tribesmen.

Mar 6, 1944. A New Republic editorial hailed Stalin's "democratic leadership."

Mar 11, 1968. Communist campaign against "Zionists" began in Poland.

Mar 13, 1954. The KGB was established.

Mar 17, 1959. The Dalai Lama fled Red Chinese terror.

Calendar of Neglected Anniversaries, PO Box 752, New Brunswick NJ 08903