

DDP ARIZONA NEWSLETTER **Doctors for Disaster Preparedness**

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

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by J. Orient

MEDICAL RESPONSE TO TERRORISM TO BE THEME OF NOVEMBER DDP MEETING IN LOS ANGELES

Suppose that a 2 kiloton "satchel" nuclear bomb exploded atop a ten story building in New York. Death, destruction, and agony could reach out for a mile or more. The DDP annual seminar will address prevention and the role of medical response.

Although nuclear terrorism is a possibility, chemical and biological weapons are far more accessible to terrorists. In addition, US intelligence analysts suspect that Soviet SS-19 missiles have been equipped with chem-bio warheads, which have a blunter shape, are less accurate, and do not spin on entering the atmosphere as nuclear warheads do. DDP panelists will discuss the potential types of weapons and methods for defense.

The annual seminar will be held at the Los Angeles Airport Hyatt, Nov. 2 and 3. The cost is \$75, or \$100 if paid after Oct. 21. Write to DDP, PO Box 1057, Starke, FL 32091.

EDWARD TELLER, SAM COHEN, BRUCE HERSCHENSOHN, OTHERS DISCUSS "WORLD WITHOUT WAR"

The annual meeting of TACDA, The American Civil Defense Association, will be held on November 4 and 5, following the DDP seminar.

Edward Teller has chosen the title "World Without War--Is It Possible?" for his banquet address. Sam Cohen, author of the recently published book We CAN Prevent World War III, will head a panel on practical war prevention. ABC commentator Bruce Herschensohn, who plans to run for Alan Cranston's Senate seat, will discuss "The Politics of National Survival." Tomas Schuman, former member of the Novosti press agency, will tell of his "Life as a Soviet Propagandist." Other distinguished speakers include Nobel laureate Eugene Wigner; Reed Irvine of Accuracy in Media, producer of "Television's Vietnam: the Real Story"; earthquake specialist Hal Bernson; and reporter Charles Wiley, veteran of eight arrests by the KGB and other secret police agencies. Registration is \$135, before October 21. For more details, write TACDA, PO Box 1057, Starke, FL 32091.

DDP LOCAL EVENTS

DDP debate with Peter Goudinoff on **strategic defense** will be cablecast on the new public access channel 64 at 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 4 and 18, both Wednesdays.

On Sunday, Sept. 22, at 7:00 p.m., DDP will meet together with the Scenario Club at the Pima Plaza Building, 2030 E. Broadway, Suite 201 C. Dr. Orient will present a **biological warfare scenario** in a group discussion format.

"**Truth or Propaganda?**" will be the topic on Thursday, October 24th, at 7:00 p.m. at Arizona Health Sciences Center, 1501 N. Campbell, in Dining Room C, which opens off the hospital cafeteria. Arthur Gil, who recently returned from a visit to the Soviet Union, will lead the discussion.

VOLCANOES IN A COALFIELD: A NUCLEAR WINTER SIMULATION?

Every hundred thousand years or so, a coalfield hosts a volcanic eruption, spewing into the atmosphere from 250 to 2500 cubic kilometers of incandescent tephra. The soot and energy inputs from these natural eviscerations of the earth dwarf those of the "nuclear winter" scenario. The fuel loading in a coalfield is from 100 to 10,000 gm/sq cm, rather than the 1 to 50 gm/sq cm in rural or urban fires. Applied to these volcanic phenomena, the nuclear winter model would predict climatic catastrophe every 10 million years or so. But as it happens, life is not yet extinct.

The conclusions of Russell Seitz of the American Security Council Foundation cannot be stated more elegantly: "It remains to be seen whether the neologism 'nuclear winter' will ever qualify as what philosophers of language call a 'rigid designator in the real set', two examples of which are 'Carbon County, Wyoming' and 'The Yellowstone Caldera'. I do not mean to consign 'the nuclear winter' to the null set, exemplified by 'the canals of Mars' and 'the unicorn', but merely to point out that a fossil rhinoceros in the hand is more amenable to analysis than two unicorns in the software."

Nature, 315:272, 23 May 1985

DDP POSITION MISREPRESENTED IN AMA JOURNAL

The August 2 issue of JAMA devotes nearly half a column to DDP, most of it inaccurate. Day and Waitzkin state that "spokespersons for DDP have argued for a continuing nuclear arms buildup and have advocated medical participation in planning for nuclear war. . . . DDPs media successes have tended to counteract the opposition of PSR and other peace groups to civil defense preparations" (p. 649).

Since DDP does not take a stand on weapons proposals, Waitzkin (author of "The Marxist View of Medical Care," Annals of Internal Medicine 89:264, 1978) was not able to quote a reference to support his assertion. He uses the disingenuous device of implicitly equating a plot to start a nuclear war with preparations for the eventuality.

DDP does interpret the Hippocratic Oath to mean that "it is a moral imperative to save lives and prevent suffering in any type of disaster," according to former DDP President Howard Maccabee. However, that pledge is unfavorably compared, again in JAMA, with the oath signed by Soviet physicians, which calls for much greater social responsibility.

The same issue of JAMA reviews the history of civil defense in a biased, negativistic manner, in studies funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Rockefeller Foundation. Although it is implied that opposition to civil defense is an viewpoint held by the majority of AMA members, this seems unlikely. Physicians belonging to the AMA might share their reaction with George Lundberg, Editor of JAMA, and James Sammons, Executive Director of the AMA, 535 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610.

DO-IT-YOURSELF CIVILIAN DEFENSE

Do you know how to build a blast valve? What wild plants are edible? Could you prepare an expedient fallout shelter if your family's lives depended on it? A series of mini-books is available from Richard Oster, an aerospace engineer who retired to devote full time to civil defense. Discouraged by public apathy, Oster is planning to close up shop and move out of the Dallas-Fort Worth target area. This may be your last opportunity to order books and plans from FORESIGHT, 914 Pinehurst Dr., Arlington, TX 76012.
