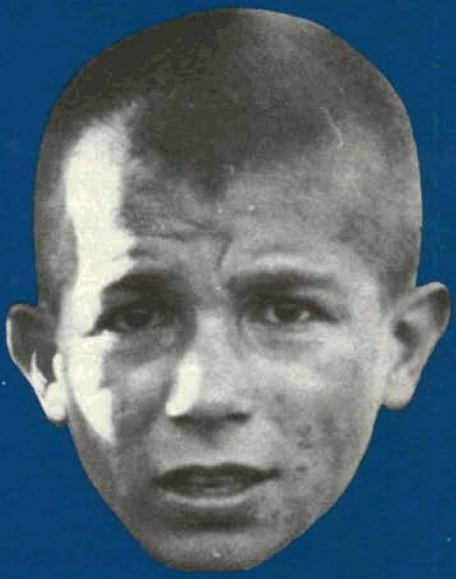
An AFSC PEACE Leaflet

THERE'S NO SAFETY IN ARMAMENTS



say the men who know armaments best!

Do armaments bring security?

Can we achieve peace by military strength? It's what we Americans have tried to do ever since World War II ended. Political leaders of both major parties, whatever else they may have disagreed on, have agreed that the way to peace lies, somehow, in building the tools of war.

Though the cost has been high, in dollars, in human lives, and the wastage of natural resources that can never be replaced, Americans have paid it.

Almost any price paid for peace would be less than the cost of another world war!

The trouble is that security and peace both seem farther away than ever. Tension has increased. Even the "improved" weapons paid for by our money and effort make us more fearful, not less. The atomic bombs that wrecked Hiroshima and Nagasaki were succeeded by new atomic bombs six times as powerful, and they by a hydrogen bomb so destructive that one bomb can wipe out a large city.

And we feel less secure than ever!

Somehow we have sensed that there is no stopping place. As Senator Millard Tydings said when he was chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee:

"No sooner will the Hydrogen bomb be a reality than a new bomb—the X-bomb—will be on its way. The new bomb will be to the H-bomb what the H-bomb is to the atom bomb."

AEC Manager

W. E. KELLEY
Manager of Operations
U. S. Atomic Energy Comm.
INS interview, Feb. 8, 1948

"Six atomic bombs of the present known design, strategically dropped on New York, would efface this vast, sprawling city. And if one of the six were dropped in the bay—with the 'right' wind blowing—the city would be made uninhabitable for 100 years, so great would be the resultant radioactive contamination."

Magazine

NEWSWEEK
May 11, 1953

"It's not generally realized, but the best air defenses attainable could knock down no more than 60% of an enemy's bombers hitting the U. S. in an intensive wave. And, according to the experts who made the Air Force's Project Lincoln study, present defenses could stop 30% at the most. . . . As for the 2,000-mile-an-hour V-2-type rockets that hit London during the last war, there are no present plans for even trying to stop them."

President

DWIGHT EISENHOWER
Inaugural Address
Jan. 20, 1953

"Science seems ready to confer upon us, as its final gift, the power to erase human life from this planet."

Air Secretary

THOMAS K. FINLETTER
June 3, 1952, at West Point

"Another all-out war would cause both sides to destroy themselves, or at least the essence of their civilization. Necessity therefore has made it imperative that the prime objective of the foreign policy of this country be the doing away of the institution of war as such."

General

J. LAWTON COLLINS
(later Army Chief of Staff)
May 29, 1947

"We could expect that the war would start very suddenly and come through the air. . . . The attack would be primarily at the great cities, and would cause great destruction both to physical structures and the people. It might involve atomic bombs, radioactive materials, biological warfare and crop-destroying chemicals. The atomic bomb would probably be used against cities in preference to military targets."

The new weapons have become so dangerous

that now and then a scientist wonders aloud in public whether even the experiments with them might not misfire and annihilate all life from the planet!

Plainly, modern weapons are much too dangerous to have around. If a new global war were to break out, and the new atomic weapons were used, the best we could look forward to would be a world of smashed cities in which the survivors would have to rummage for food like animals. The experts—generals, scientists, Presidents—agree on that. What President Truman said was:

"We can't stand another global war. We can't ever have another war unless it is total war, and that means the end of our civilization as we know it."

Because simply,

there is no defense against atomic weapons.

The experts agree on that, too. It runs through the warnings of our ablest scientists. You can find it in the solemn speeches of our wisest statesmen, and in the testimony before Congressional committees of our best-informed military men.

There is no defense!

Planes and soon guided missiles can cross the widest oceans. Not even the strongest possible defense system can stop them all, and only one or two need to get through to make a bloody shambles of the biggest city.

Commentator

DREW PEARSON
"Washington Merry-Go-Round"
May 19, 1952

"The scientists now know that the H-bomb can be exploded. What worries them is the bare possibility that the bomb might misfire. If so, scientists say it would send a ring of fire around the world, causing the earth's atmosphere to glow brighter than the sun, and the earth's surface to melt into glass. The scientists are confident this won't happen, but they also say they never can be exactly sure of the H-bomb's effect."

General

GEN. H. H. ARNOLD
Wartime Air Force Chief,
"This Week," Jan. 11, 1948

"We'll lose, and the enemy we fight will lose, because victory in atomic warfare is no longer possible. One nation cannot defeat another nation today. That concept died with Hiroshima."

Rear Admiral

ELLIS M. ZACHARIAS
USN (RET.)
Wartime Deputy Chief of
Naval Intelligence
"U. N. World," Nov., 1947

"There is no defense against absolute war, except to make war itself obsolete."

Scientist

EMERGENCY COMM. OF ATOMIC SCIENTISTS
Nov. 17, 1946

"There is no military defense against the atomic bomb, and none can be expected. . . . Preparedness against atomic warfare is futile, and if attempted will ruin the structure of our social order."

Government

INTERNATIONAL CONTROL OF ATOMIC ENERGY
issued by U. S. Department of State, Jan., 1947

"For the foreseeable future there can be no adequate military defense against atomic weapons."

General

GEN. HOYT S. VANDENBURG
Air Force Chief of Staff,
New York Times,
Sept. 24, 1950

"Some enemy bombers would be bound to get through to American cities in any determined air attack. Even a greatly expanded United States Air Force could never guarantee absolute security from atomic bombing. The experience of World War II proves that some planes in a striking force can always get through to the target."

What the generals and the statesmen

have been hoping is that our atomic and hydrogen bombs, and fleets of planes, would "deter" any nation thinking of attacking us. By making ourselves very strong, they said, we could frighten our "enemies" into remaining peaceful.

BUT THAT DOESN'T WORK, EITHER.

Things are not that simple. Armaments do not frighten other nations into peace; they frighten them into making more arms of their own! Then we have an armaments race, and an armaments race is exactly what we are in the middle of now!

Arms races do not lead to peace. They lead straight to war. For a while—a few years, perhaps—they may *seem* to prevent war, but tensions and armaments both keep growing during those years, and finally explode together in war.

That is what has happened all through history, and it is what is happening now. The tension and the arms stockpiles both continue to grow. Unless we change direction soon, it will be too late. And the war that ends this arms race may end the human race, too!

IT IS TIME TO CHANGE DIRECTION—NOW!

Admiral

ARTHUR W. RADFORD
to the House Armed Service Committee

"We must realize that the best way to win a future war is to prevent it. We must realize that the threat of instant atomic retaliation will not prevent it, and may even invite it. We must realize that we cannot gamble that the atom blitz of annihilation will even win a war."

Veterans

AMERICAN VETERANS COMMITTEE
Fifth National Convention June, 1951

"We recognize that an arms race among nations, because it increases world tensions to a point where a just and peaceful settlement of differences is made well-nigh impossible, and because it creates a self-sustaining spiral of arms and more arms, almost inevitably leads to war."

Senator

BRIEN McMAHON
Chairman, Senate Committee on Atomic Energy U. S. Senate, Feb. 2, 1950

"Let me warn, with all the solemnity at my command, that building hydrogen bombs does not promise positive security for the United States: it promises only the negative result of averting for a few months or years well-nigh certain catastrophe. . . . One (policy) consists in resigning ourselves to a generation of waging the cold war . . . and cherishing indefinitely the hope that the Soviet tyranny will somehow see the evil of its ways and reform itself from within. Arrayed against the choice of such a policy is 5,000 years of recorded history, which teaches again and again and again that armaments races lead to war—under today's conditions, hydrogen war."

Statesman

from TWENTY-FIVE YEARS by SIR EDWARD GREY
British Foreign Secretary, 1906-16

"Each government . . . while resenting any suggestion that its own measures are anything more than precaution for defense, regards similar measures of another government as preparation to attack.

"The moral is obvious: it is that great armaments lead inevitably to war . . .

"The enormous growth of armaments in Europe, the sense of insecurity and fear caused by them—it was these that made war inevitable. This, it seems to me, is the truest reading of history, and . . . the warning to be handed on to those who come after us."

ARMAMENTS WILL NEVER BRING PEACE

BUT *There is a foreign policy which, if vigorously pursued by the United States, could achieve world peace!*

Destruction or slavery are not the only alternatives before us! It is possible, by using the best out of our American heritage, to change the course of events from war to peace. We can do it by a policy emphasizing four main points.

1. Universal disarmament, with internationally administered inspection and control. Disarmament *is* possible, in spite of the failures of the past, and is an essential part of a policy of peace.

2. The elimination of imperialism and colonialism, and the use of the world's resources to advance human well-being throughout the world.

3. The creation and strengthening of agencies of peaceful change, especially through the United Nations.

4. Promotion of world brotherhood as the basis for a just and enduring peaceful society.

Whether we can achieve that kind of policy, and through it the kind of world we seek, depends on how much the people of this country really want it. Your part can begin with the distribution of this leaflet among your friends and by reading more about this "policy of peace" in

WHICH WAY TO PEACE

Another AFSC Peace Leaflet 5c

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