



Special Disarmament Issue

"Do not follow any leaders who train you in the ways of inflicting death. Love life, respect life, respect life in yourself and in others."

—Pope John Paul II

Disarmament transcends all borders

By DAMIEN P. HARRIGAN
For WORD

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peacefully with all men." (Romans 12:18)

Victory breeds hatred; the defeated live in pain. The peaceful live happily, giving up victory and defeat." (Dhammapada 201)

Peace is a global issue; it transcends the things which divide humanity. The above quote, one Christian and the other Buddhist, give the basis for peace transcending religious differences. The existence of peace movements in countries as different as Vanuatu and the United States shows that peace transcends borders, cultures, and levels of development. A visit to most peace demonstrations shows that peace also transcends age and sex. Why is this? Whether we realize it or not, we all have a "vested interest" in the peace issue since nuclear weapons threaten us all.

At least six countries have their own nuclear weapons. They are the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, France, China, and India, Israel, South Africa and Pakistan might have their

own nuclear weapons. Additionally, some twenty-five other countries could develop nuclear weapons in a few years. Some people even fear that a terrorist group could steal the needed uranium isotope to make an atomic bomb. Already there have been cases of missing uranium. At present

nuclear weapons belonging to the superpowers are deployed on the soil of their allies and in international waters by submarines.

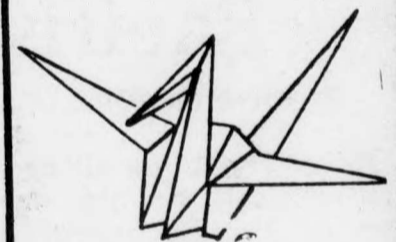
In 1983 the arms race was costing the world \$1.4 billion daily! Given the size and worldwide nature of the arms race, many people fear that any nuclear war would

quickly escalate thereby causing total destruction. Could escalation happen? We must remember that nuclear war happens in a matter of minutes not hours. How could a leader tell if his/her nation was a target or not. A "hotline" might have worked between two nations, but it couldn't work among six, nine, or thirty-four nations!

Additionally, the concept of a limited nuclear war, even if possible, merely serves as a comfortable illusion by encouraging an it-can't-happen-here attitude. Yet it *can* happen here; even by accident. There have been numerous cases when NORAD was accidentally put on alert. Surely, the same has happened with the Soviets. We must be brave enough to demand that this madness end. We will always have our differences and misunderstandings, but the peace issue can give us a special unity.

Recommended Reading:

Freeman, Harold *This Is the Way the World Will End This Is The Way You Will End Unless...* Hurtig Publishers, Edmonton, 1983. A non-technical yet reliable work.



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"Give Peace a Chance"
—Dr. Winston O. Boogie