

IN THE STATE OF MISSOURI

AN INDICTMENT OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE

August 15, 1988

Option 1

We charge the United States government with crimes against peace and crimes against humanity. Specifically, we charge that agents of the United States government have engaged in an ongoing criminal enterprise through the procurement, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons. The government's involvement with nuclear weapons has

1) recklessly endangered the health, well being, and safety of both United States and other nations' citizens

2) violated the ecosphere of the earth: the wind, air, seas, etc., and killed, according to one estimate, nearly 2 million people through the environmental and human radioactive contamination associated with nuclear weapons production and testing

3) abused its fiduciary and ecological responsibility by creating 40 separate nuclear waste dumps around the country that are hazardous and leaking. The GAO estimates that over \$100 billion may be required to clean up these sites. Meanwhile, people will continue to die from radiation exposure.

4) caused needless suffering and death to U.S. citizens by the immoral allocation of scarce fiscal resources to nuclear weapons research, production and deployment. While over 40 million of our brothers and sisters live in poverty, denied adequate nutrition, education, jobs, housing, health, and day care, billions of dollars are squandered on a futile arms race whose only tangible achievement is the increasing terrorization of the worlds' population and the destruction of the ecosphere.

5) has subverted our democratic motivations by concentrating power and the decision making authority in a secretive and largely unaccountable military industrial oligarchy. The architects of the nuclear strategy have systematically and consistently deceived the American public about the true risks of nuclear weapons and falsely overstated the national security benefits of such massively destructive arsenals.

6) has allowed a seemingly insatiable appetite for nuclear weapons to significantly contribute toward the deadly problem of global nuclear weapons proliferation and appreciably increased the risk of nuclear war and more limited nuclear acts by terrorists.

We recognize our complicity with these evils inasmuch as we have, in many ways, cooperated with the existence of these weapons. We aim to break this complicity through our action today.

AN INDICTMENT OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Option 2

We have entered these missile silos today with the intention of using our non-violent power as citizens to formally charge the United States government with crimes against peace and crimes against humanity. Specifically, we charge that agents of the United States government have engaged in an ongoing criminal enterprise through the procurement, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons. The government's involvement with nuclear weapons has

1) recklessly endangered the health, well-being, and safety of both United States and other nations' citizens;

2) killed, according to one estimate, nearly 2 million people through the environmental and human radioactive contamination associated with nuclear weapons production and testing;

3) abused its fiduciary and ecological responsibility by creating 40 separate nuclear waste dumps around the country that are hazardous and leaking. The GAO estimates that over \$100 billion may be required to clean up these sites. Meanwhile, people will continue to die from radiation exposure.

4) caused needless suffering and death to U.S. citizens by the immoral allocation of scarce fiscal resources to nuclear weapons research, production, and deployment; while over 40 million of our brothers and sisters live in poverty, denied adequate nutrition, education, jobs, housing, health care, and day care, billions of dollars are squandered on a futile arms race whose only tangible achievement is the increasing terrorization of the world's population and the destruction of the ecosphere.

5) has subverted our democratic institutions by concentrating power and the decision-making authority in a secretive and largely unaccountable military-industrial oligarchy. The architects of the nuclear strategy have systematically and consistently deceived the American public about the true risks of nuclear weapons and falsely overstated the national security benefits of such massively destructive arsenals.

6) has allowed a seemingly insatiable appetite for nuclear weapons to significantly contribute to the deadly problem of global nuclear weapons proliferations and appreciably increased the risk of nuclear war and more limited nuclear acts by terrorists.

The questions we ask seem infinitely humane and simple:

1. Does not the greatest threat to our national security arise from the world's increasing numbers of people who are hungry, homeless, and jobless?
2. How long must we wait before our leaders hear and respond to our cries for peace?
3. How can a country survive with 10% of its people rich and almost half poor?
4. When do human social and economic concerns become as important as the Pentagon's ever larger demands for funding?
5. When will the power elite allow participation by the masses in determining the nation's spending agenda?

We believe that this nation's leaders have indeed gone mad (Mutually Assured Destruction). Their vision is hopeless and fatalistic, grounded in a dangerously outdated set of fears and prejudices that threaten to destroy us all.

We believe our already overburdened planet is being pushed (whether ignorantly or intentionally is sometimes difficult to know) by technological systems which humans are unable to control.

Every inhabitant of this planet is at risk of genocide as long as missiles remain buried in the ground, as long as nuclear annihilation lurks beneath the seas, as long as portable weapons wait like fragile eggs to spill from the basket of human control and splatter their death on us all.