I Desert Voices

by Marc Page

On September 30, 1999, the same day as the Japanese nuclear accident at the Tokai Plant, the U.S. Department of Energy (D.O.E.) committed a similar non-accidental sin against all of life. This was humanity's latest subcritical nuclear assault against the Earth, committed by the U.S. D.O.E. on the last day of their fiscal year. This plutonium detonation (code named "Oboe 1") at the Nevada Test Site (N.T.S.) was the 7th U.S. subcritical nuclear test since Clinton signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. NDE helped the Global Wounds organize several prayer-actions in resistance to this hidden violence.

Y2K: Danger of Nuclear Weapons Launch

What should we say about Y2K? Much international attention is being focused on what will happen when the calendar turns from 1999 to 2000. There is widespread concern that the failure of computers to recognize the year 2000 date change could affect command, control, communications and intelligence systems of nuclear forces. Particularly alarming is the fact that... (see Y2K, continued next page)

The prayers began on the 17th of September at the D.O.E. building on Losee Road in North Las Vegas. Ten activists from almost as many organizations gathered to "Drum Down Babylon" outside of the D.O.E. building. We asked the employees to join us in resisting the upcoming subcritical test. Corbin Harney, spiritual leader and elder of the Western Shoshone Nation joined me in our cordial conversation with Derek Scammell of the D.O.E. Corbin told... (see TEST, continued next page)
The United States and Russia have about 5,000 strategic nuclear weapons or "hair trigger" alert. This means that these weapons can be fired within 15 minutes and reach their target within 30 minutes. Given this situation, it is entirely possible for a country under nuclear attack to initiate a retaliatory attack on the attacker. The potential for global nuclear disaster still exists, however. The only solution with regard to nuclear forces is to take them off alert. An international campaign, spearheaded by Friends of the Earth Sydney, is demanding that all nuclear forces be taken off alert, preferably by physical separation of the warheads from delivery vehicles. Last year, the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a resolution advocating this same position. The American Medical Association and General Lee Butler, former commander of all U.S. strategic nuclear forces, have directed this plea to our own government.

De-arming would give those over- seers of nuclear weapons hours or days rather than minutes or seconds to decide how to respond to any signal they might receive. It costs nothing and can be done by a simple executive order. Such a precedent took place in 1991 when President George Bush removed hundreds of U.S. nuclear weapons from "hair trigger" alert and in response Michael Garcia did the same with hundreds of Soviet weapons.

The United Kingdom has already taken this step by altering its "nicer to live" from minutes to days. Russia and the United States have taken a few positive steps by de-arming one another and establishing the Center for Y2K Strategic Stability in Colorado Springs, Colorado. From late December to early January, this center will be staffed by both American and Russian teams that will watch missile launches and Y2K problems by monitoring satellite data, ground sensors, and data flowing from the nearby North American Aerospace Defense Command.

The United States and Russia have about 5,000 strategic nuclear weapons or "hair trigger" alert. This means that these weapons can be fired within 15 minutes and reach their target within 30 minutes. Given this situation, it is entirely possible for a country under nuclear attack to initiate a retaliatory attack on the attacker. The potential for global nuclear disaster still exists, however. The only solution with regard to nuclear forces is to take them off alert. An international campaign, spearheaded by Friends of the Earth Sydney, is demanding that all nuclear forces be taken off alert, preferably by physical separation of the warheads from delivery vehicles. Last year, the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a resolution advocating this same position. The American Medical Association and General Lee Butler, former commander of all U.S. strategic nuclear forces, have directed this plea to our own government.

De-arming would give those overseers of nuclear weapons hours or days rather than minutes or seconds to decide how to respond to any signal they might receive. It costs nothing and can be done by a simple executive order. Such a precedent took place in 1991 when President George Bush removed hundreds of U.S. nuclear weapons from "hair trigger" alert and in response Michael Garcia did the same with hundreds of Soviet weapons.

The United Kingdom has already taken this step by altering its "nicer to live" from minutes to days. Russia and the United States have taken a few positive steps by de-arming one another and establishing the Center for Y2K Strategic Stability in Colorado Springs, Colorado. From late December to early January, this center will be staffed by both American and Russian teams that will watch missile launches and Y2K problems by monitoring satellite data, ground sensors, and data flowing from the nearby North American Aerospace Defense Command.

The United States and Russia have about 5,000 strategic nuclear weapons or "hair trigger" alert. This means that these weapons can be fired within 15 minutes and reach their target within 30 minutes. Given this situation, it is entirely possible for a country under nuclear attack to initiate a retaliatory attack on the attacker. The potential for global nuclear disaster still exists, however. The only solution with regard to nuclear forces is to take them off alert. An international campaign, spearheaded by Friends of the Earth Sydney, is demanding that all nuclear forces be taken off alert, preferably by physical separation of the warheads from delivery vehicles. Last year, the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a resolution advocating this same position. The American Medical Association and General Lee Butler, former commander of all U.S. strategic nuclear forces, have directed this plea to our own government.

De-arming would give those overseers of nuclear weapons hours or days rather than minutes or seconds to decide how to respond to any signal they might receive. It costs nothing and can be done by a simple executive order. Such a precedent took place in 1991 when President George Bush removed hundreds of U.S. nuclear weapons from "hair trigger" alert and in response Michael Garcia did the same with hundreds of Soviet weapons.

The United Kingdom has already taken this step by altering its "nicer to live" from minutes to days. Russia and the United States have taken a few positive steps by de-arming one another and establishing the Center for Y2K Strategic Stability in Colorado Springs, Colorado. From late December to early January, this center will be staffed by both American and Russian teams that will watch missile launches and Y2K problems by monitoring satellite data, ground sensors, and data flowing from the nearby North American Aerospace Defense Command.

The United States and Russia have about 5,000 strategic nuclear weapons or "hair trigger" alert. This means that these weapons can be fired within 15 minutes and reach their target within 30 minutes. Given this situation, it is entirely possible for a country under nuclear attack to initiate a retaliatory attack on the attacker. The potential for global nuclear disaster still exists, however. The only solution with regard to nuclear forces is to take them off alert. An international campaign, spearheaded by Friends of the Earth Sydney, is demanding that all nuclear forces be taken off alert, preferably by physical separation of the warheads from delivery vehicles. Last year, the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a resolution advocating this same position. The American Medical Association and General Lee Butler, former commander of all U.S. strategic nuclear forces, have directed this plea to our own government.

De-arming would give those overseers of nuclear weapons hours or days rather than minutes or seconds to decide how to respond to any signal they might receive. It costs nothing and can be done by a simple executive order. Such a precedent took place in 1991 when President George Bush removed hundreds of U.S. nuclear weapons from "hair trigger" alert and in response Michael Garcia did the same with hundreds of Soviet weapons.

The United Kingdom has already taken this step by altering its "nicer to live" from minutes to days. Russia and the United States have taken a few positive steps by de-arming one another and establishing the Center for Y2K Strategic Stability in Colorado Springs, Colorado. From late December to early January, this center will be staffed by both American and Russian teams that will watch missile launches and Y2K problems by monitoring satellite data, ground sensors, and data flowing from the nearby North American Aerospace Defense Command.

The United States and Russia have about 5,000 strategic nuclear weapons or "hair trigger" alert. This means that these weapons can be fired within 15 minutes and reach their target within 30 minutes. Given this situation, it is entirely possible for a country under nuclear attack to initiate a retaliatory attack on the attacker. The potential for global nuclear disaster still exists, however. The only solution with regard to nuclear forces is to take them off alert. An international campaign, spearheaded by Friends of the Earth Sydney, is demanding that all nuclear forces be taken off alert, preferably by physical separation of the warheads from delivery vehicles. Last year, the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a resolution advocating this same position. The American Medical Association and General Lee Butler, former commander of all U.S. strategic nuclear forces, have directed this plea to our own government.

De-arming would give those overseers of nuclear weapons hours or days rather than minutes or seconds to decide how to respond to any signal they might receive. It costs nothing and can be done by a simple executive order. Such a precedent took place in 1991 when President George Bush removed hundreds of U.S. nuclear weapons from "hair trigger" alert and in response Michael Garcia did the same with hundreds of Soviet weapons.

The United Kingdom has already taken this step by altering its "nicer to live" from minutes to days. Russia and the United States have taken a few positive steps by de-arming one another and establishing the Center for Y2K Strategic Stability in Colorado Springs, Colorado. From late December to early January, this center will be staffed by both American and Russian teams that will watch missile launches and Y2K problems by monitoring satellite data, ground sensors, and data flowing from the nearby North American Aerospace Defense Command.

The United States and Russia have about 5,000 strategic nuclear weapons or "hair trigger" alert. This means that these weapons can be fired within 15 minutes and reach their target within 30 minutes. Given this situation, it is entirely possible for a country under nuclear attack to initiate a retaliatory attack on the attacker. The potential for global nuclear disaster still exists, however. The only solution with regard to nuclear forces is to take them off alert. An international campaign, spearheaded by Friends of the Earth Sydney, is demanding that all nuclear forces be taken off alert, preferably by physical separation of the warheads from delivery vehicles. Last year, the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a resolution advocating this same position. The American Medical Association and General Lee Butler, former commander of all U.S. strategic nuclear forces, have directed this plea to our own government.

De-arming would give those overseers of nuclear weapons hours or days rather than minutes or seconds to decide how to respond to any signal they might receive. It costs nothing and can be done by a simple executive order. Such a precedent took place in 1991 when President George Bush removed hundreds of U.S. nuclear weapons from "hair trigger" alert and in response Michael Garcia did the same with hundreds of Soviet weapons.

The United Kingdom has already taken this step by altering its "nicer to live" from minutes to days. Russia and the United States have taken a few positive steps by de-arming one another and establishing the Center for Y2K Strategic Stability in Colorado Springs, Colorado. From late December to early January, this center will be staffed by both American and Russian teams that will watch missile launches and Y2K problems by monitoring satellite data, ground sensors, and data flowing from the nearby North American Aerospace Defense Command.

The potential for disaster also exists because nuclear reactors might malfunction in a variety of ways. There are 433 nuclear power reactors in the world, 103 are in the United States. External power failures could cause meltdown of reactor cores or fuel rods since nuclear reactors require power from the grid to pass coolant through the core. In order to avoid the possibility of a meltdown, groups such as the World Atomic Safety Holiday campaign (WASH) are asking people to contact President Clinton and Senator Grassley, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852 (ph: 301-415-7799). Tell them to shut down all nuclear reactors from December 1, 1999 until after the New Year.

As a people of faith who reverence all life and seek peace for our world, we should have a lot to say about Y2K.

Can't make the Millennium 2000 Event? Have your name read as we cross onto the Test Site (see poster)
The Experience Continues: NDE's Future Plans

by Cindy Pile

I spent several weeks in Europe this summer—attending the Hague Appeal for Peace, visiting several Catholic Worker communities and the only woman to come forward as a priest ordained in the "underground" church in the former Czechoslovakia. While there I received news that NDE was undergoing yet another shuffling of staff. When I returned to the States I accepted the position of Director and Marc Page came on board as Local Coordinator. Gary Cavalier agreed to continue with us as our accountant and Paul Colbert joined us as housing/hospitality coordinator for Millennium 2000.

I am writing this column from my apartment in Oakland, California, NDE's Northern California office, which is across the yard from Anne Symens-Bucher's house. Anne was one of the original founders of the Nevada Desert Experience. Given the location of my house and my history with NDE, my decision to serve in this new capacity feels right. I first visited the desert in Lent of 1987 with several fellow theology students. Something about the desert grabbed me—its starkness, its silence, its beauty, its utter devastation. Jesus grabbed me as he showed me that he was being crucified in this desecrated place and that he was rising through groups like the one of which I was a part as we prayed and acted in resistance to such evil. Thus began my love affair with the desert and the Nevada Desert Experience. Since then I have participated in and helped to organize numerous gatherings at the Test Site worked as a field education intern and education director and served on the board. I have seen NDE at its high points as the part of the anti-nuclear movement which NDE represents—the faith-based community turned out en masse for prayerful protest. I have witnessed the lower points, as well, when only a handful of faithful followers continued the vigil for peace.

Perhaps NDE has currently been experiencing a somewhat delayed reaction to the end of the Cold War. When El Salvador's civil war drew to a close, sanctuary groups in the U.S. had to slow down and re-evaluate their work in light of this new situation. Many anti-nuclear groups reacted similarly when the Cold War ended. Some groups folded, others switched priorities, still others pledged to continue to work for a nuclear-free world.

The Nevada Desert Experience was one of the latter groups. The experience continues. Yet, it was only at a board meeting last month that board and staff finally reflected extensively on the current status of testing laboratories, at the Test Site and with supercomputers, and what NDE's response should be. (see NDE PLANS, next page)

Archbishop Dom Helder Camara (1909-1999)

"This is the place of the greatest act of violence in the world, it should be the place of the greatest acts of nonviolence."

—Dom Helder Camara speaking at the Nevada Test Site

Archbishop Dom Helder Camara went to the Nevada Test Site in 1987 & 1991 with Nevada Desert Experience.
SCHEDULE:
Thursday, December 30, 1999
1:00 p.m. Registration
7:00 p.m. Opening Ceremony: Corbin
Haney, Bishop Walsh of Las Vegas, and Cindy Pfeiffer, Music & Liturgical Dance: Jessica
Manibusan & Carla DeSola, Keynote: "The
Gift of Time" by Jonathan Schell
Evening Prayer (Malta) Onage Arvid
Friday, December 31, 1999
9:20 a.m. Keynote Joyce Hofferby
11:00 a.m. Response from various faith tradi-
tions: Tom Trimmer, Chalcy Ramsey, Mel
Hecht & others.
1:00 p.m. "The Human & Environmental
Impact of the Bomb": Health Effects: Or.
Rosalee Benett, Economic Impact: Rev. James
Lawson. Downwinders: June Stark; Carey &
Claudia Peterson, Impact on Native Ameri-
cans: Jan Zabarte.
2:15 & 3:45 p.m.: Two Sessions of Work-
shops: Sr. Martha Ann Kirk; Gregor Gable,
Nancy Lynch, Ken Butigan; Cynthia
Stateman, Mike Niece, Rosemary Lynch; osf
& Louise Vitali, often and others.
2:00 p.m. "The Hope" Dan Biernat
7:30 p.m. New Year's Eve Party for Peace:
Thorn Coyle, Jesse Manibusan, Henncyy
Jones, Joe Nativ.";
9:30 p.m. Caravan to Nevada Test Site
11:00 p.m. Liturgy, Commissioning & light-
ing of candles with Bishop Tom Gumbleton.
MIDNIGHT: Hundreds of people create a
cookie celebration on the Test Site.
Saturday, January 1, 2000
2:00 a.m. Youth Easter Vigil, Fr. River Sims
6:00 a.m. Sunrise Ceremony, Corbin Haney
10:00 a.m. Catholic Mass: Tom Gumbleton
7:00 p.m. "Our Brokenness, the Violence
Within Our Acti0nal Role: Chris Montesano
3:30 p.m. Participatory dance: Carla DeSola
5:00 p.m. Closing Prayer
5:30 p.m. Dinner in transit to Las Vegas
6:30 p.m. Vigil on the Las Vegas Strip
8:30 p.m. Concert
Sunday, January 2, 2000
10:00 a.m. Panel of Anti-Nuclear Organi-
tizations: John Dear, Jennifer Yorecke; Dave
Robinson, David McReynolds.
Noon: Interfaith Closing Ceremony
LOGISTICAL INFORMATION:
Registration & Food: To receive a registra-
tion packet, register by Nov. 30. The registra-
tion fee is $75. For children ages 6-12: the
fee is $30. This fee covers housing and eight
meals prepared by Catholic Worker commu-
nities.
Housing: Sleeping bag space is provided on
wrestling mats for this event at Bishop
Gorman HS. Housing (with beds) in the
homes of local supporters is available on a
limited basis for elders and others in need.
Call Pat Boll at Harzlon Travel (702) 451-
0466 for RV rentals.
Transportation: Please make your travel ar-
rangements TODAY. The airline tickets to Las
Vegas are exceedingly high. Pat Boll at Harz-
lon Travel (702) 451-0466 has arranged
coupons on 3 major airlines for this event.
If you fly more than 1000 miles away, you
may want to fly to San Francisco, Los Ange-
les, or Phoenix, and join the existing car-
avan or rent a car to drive from there. To or-
ganize a caravan or carpool for yourselves,
please check the ride-board on our website:
www.shundahai.org/nle. NDE will not be
able to provide transportation to and from
the airport. Bishop Gorman High School is
at 1801 S. Maryland Parkway. Directions to
Bishop Gorman High School will be in your
registration packet.
All persons of conscience, mark your calendars!
Please consider joining us.
Organize your congregation, peace center, university or religious order to come to the desert to ring in a new millennium of Peace and Justice!

Y2K INFO: After researching the Y2K problem, NDE has decided, in accordance with the Red Cross Guidelines, to make moderate preparations for potential problems. We will stock up on food, water, and flashlights and will have a generator available. We urge you to prepare by bringing extra water, cash and warm clothes, and if you are driving, fill up your car when you arrive in Las Vegas.

SCHEDULING NOTE: SPECIAL YOUTH EVENTS THROUGHOUT WEEK-END. FOR MORE INFO, CALL FR. RIVER SIMS AT: (415) 922-7553

Please clip and return to:
Nevada Desert Experience, P. O. Box 46645, Las Vegas, NV 89114

Name:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip:
Phone(s):
Email:

Organizational Affiliation:

- Enclosed is my registration fee of $75. ($38 for children accompanied by adults)
- I can’t attend, read my name as people cross the line. A donation is enclosed.
- I would like to become a Friend of the Desert. I will donate $ __________ monthly __________ quarterly __________ annually
- I will only need sleeping bag space at Bishop Gorman High School
- I will need alternative housing: a bed away from Bishop Gorman High School
- I will arrive by train or plane in Las Vegas on _______ and leave by _______.
- I will drive a car to Las Vegas (with extra room for ______ people).
- I am organizing others to come: carload, vanload, busload, etc. (circle one)
- Enclosed is a medical emergency permission signed by my guardian, (I am under 18 years old.)
- Send me more brochures so I can help publicize.
- I can help with set up and clean up at the event.
- Please send a T-shirt, here is $12 for each shirt. (M __ L __ XL __)

Phone: (702) 646-4814, Web: www.shundahai.org/nde E-mail: nde@igc.org
We came out with a strong strategic plan. Most importantly, we pledged to revitalize the faith-based anti-nuclear movement. We need to draw on those of you who have been to the Test Site who have written Congress, who are members of church-based social justice groups, peace centers or fellowships, religious orders or Pax Christi groups, to join with us in a new capacity by becoming NDE Affiliate Groups (NAGs). Our goal is to organize 100 such regional groups over the next three years. These groups will make NDE part of their agenda by working to end nuclear weapons testing. NDE will provide educational packets, a video, speakers, action and legislative materials.

If you are interested in helping to rebuild the base of support which is necessary to stop the testing, contact me at (510) 261-6120 cindypile@juno.com or our Las Vegas office. I would very much like to visit your community and offer a presentation or homily.

Secondly, since the testing has moved to other places, NDE commits itself to bringing people not only to the Nevada Test Site, but to Lawrence Livermore Labs in Livermore, California, as well. As all of you know, from December 30-January 2 NDE is hosting Millennium 2000: Walking the Ways of Peace in Las Vegas and at the Test Site. On Ash Wednesday, March 8th, we will move to the San Francisco Bay Area when Bishop Tom Gumbleton preaches at local masses and NDE supporters present of the sinfulness of building the National Ignition Facility (NIF) at Livermore Labs. The NIF seeks to design miniaturized nuclear weapons which will not require plutonium triggers, thus making them much easier to build and use.

As we all work toward total abolition of nuclear weapons, we plan to expand our witness at the Test Site. NDE will continue to hold the annual Holy Week Walk. Through the development of the new NDE Affiliate Groups we hope to bring people to the desert for every weekend in Lent, 2002.

Finally, NDE commits itself to galvanizing the necessary resources to implement our new plan. We will be returning to you, our supporters, for assistance in this area. Our hope is to expand greatly our Friends of the Desert program by obtaining monthly, quarterly or yearly financial pledges from our mailing list of 4,000 individuals. We are grateful for your ongoing commitment to working for nuclear abolition and look for your help in the future. The new millennium is upon us. As the recently deceased but still "presente!" Dom Helder Camara once exhorted us: "Together let us bring the greatest acts of nonviolence to bear on the Nevada Test Site, on all test sites and our whole world!".

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:
March 8, 2000, Ash Wednesday with Bishop Tom Gumbleton at Lawrence Livermore National Labs. Bishop Gumbleton will also preach at San Francisco Bay Area parishes.
May 12-15, 2000: Mothers' Day at the Nevada Test Site, Contact Healing Global Wounds, or the Shundahai Network (702) 647-3095.

QUESTIONS
by Nakajima Hiroshi

If I shriek who will hear me if I don't break the silence in which diatribe pile up, who will hear me if I speak in normal words in the normal order who will hear me if I make poems of what I saw and heard on the road from Hiroshima will I disturb the dead will I be a merchant of our disaster if I fail to work all the horror into a play of voices in which the living and the dead live again who will forgive me
TABERNACLE OF THE DESERT:
Building A House of Prayer for All Peoples

by Arnielle Zemach

I am new to Nevada Desert Experience (NDE), recently hired for six months to do "development," a catch-all term for raising money, awareness, money, support, and money. But cannot do this well without a solid idea towards which to strive.

As I read through the stack of material, both promotional and poetic, the single strongest image found is one of reclaiming the land. As a species, we have intricately developed and tested devices of unimaginable horror and desecrated our own home in doing so. With the help of God and personal commitment, NDE and Friends of the Desert (supporters who make regular financial contributions to NDE) will reclaim and re-consecrate what is, in fact, holy ground.

When we "test" bombs in a supposedly empty desert, we attack our roots. The desert lies at the core of half the nuclear testing ground, holding vigils, cross "Islamic" and wrote the names on it. What if we could construct a tabernacle that could be a House of Prayer for All Peoples? It could be a circular, perhaps spiral shape that would simply expand as names, prayers, and poems were added. It would be on poles, just a top with no sides so that all could enter. It would have to be sturdy and secure and portable. It could go to the desert, to Livermore Labs, or even the Bikini Atoll.

Then, when the police arrive, they would be met by people in a house of worship. They would be forced to enter a sanctified space. Then what? The level of their dilemma is automatically raised. And the level of shame. I am not among those who think that all guilt and shame are an asset on our freedom. Hardly. If we look at all squarely at what we as a species have done to this earth, we must feel both horrified and ashamed. The task is to neither wallow in it nor to numb out, but to meet that feeling with a change of behavior and then with taking action.

I believe that names are powerful. For each person that crosses the line onto the Test Site, we could carry a thousand names, dedications, ancestors, grand-children, Prayers, blessings and poems could be added. Churches and synagogues could sponsor whole congregations; religious orders could sponsor all of their members; a grandchild could sponsor an entire family tree.

I see this as a potential unifying image for Friends of the Desert that could greatly expand participation for the people who cannot physically join us but who want some tangible spiritual connection to the process of achieving peace on this planet. This idea is in a nascent stage now but I will move on it with all available speed.

If anyone is interested in discussing it, offering ideas, energy, and donations, please be in touch. My e-mail (checked twice per week) is azemach@gtu.edu. Letters can be sent to P.O. Box 7849, Oakland, CA 94601. My home number is (510) 649-8138. Welcome calls, letters, thoughts, prayers and dreams. Let's see what we can do.

Have your name read at Millennium 2000!

We will inaugurate this new House of Prayer at Millennium 2000. Please join us in spirit by letting us carry your name "across the line" at the Nevada Test Site. The Tabernacle Of The Desert is a long-term project through which you can support peacemaking, even at a distance. Friends of the Desert will provide the finances for this project. If you are unable to attend Millennium 2000, please send us your name so that we might invoke your presence with us at the Nevada Test Site (and other nuclear proving grounds). And please consider joining our growing list of Friends of the Desert, by offering regular timely financial support. (Please sign-up on form located in 2000 poster)
SENATE DEFEATS COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY!
As we are going to press, we learned of this tragic decision. Contact your Senator and express your outrage. (202) 224-3121

Nevada Desert Experience
FRANCISCAN FRATERS OF CALIFORNIA
P. O. Box 46645
Las Vegas, NV 89114
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

U. S. TESTS NUCLEAR WEAPON!
An underground "subcritical" nuclear weapon was tested on Sept. 30, 1999

Largest Civil Disobedience ever at Los Alamos National Labs

by Marc Page
(LOS ALAMOS, NM) - Peace Action held a conference in Albuquerque on the weekend of Hiroshima & Nagasaki Days, August 6th-9th. The gathering of 400 people from around the U.S. culminated in the largest act of nonviolent civil disobedience in the history of Los Alamos National Labs (LANL). Several people came from other nations, including two Japanese Hibakusha. Hundreds of employees stood on the roof and outdoors and inside the windows at LANL for over an hour to watch the protestors as they arrived and stepped out of the "protest zone" box which LANL provided for the Peace Action folks. Upon stepping out of the protest zone, the anti-nuclear activists were warned that they ought to get back in their box, or they would be taken into custody by the LANL security forces. Martin Sheen was first to step out of the box and pray the Our Father. After Martin came NDE volunteer David Buer, O.F.M., then 66 others, including NDE's Las Vegas Coordinator Marc Page. The nuclear resisters were then identified, searched, handcuffed, and bussed back to the rally site (the park from which they had just marched). Security forces then released the detainees as quickly as possible.

Right: David Buer, O.F.M., of Las Vegas, Nevada being arrested outside Los Alamos National Labs in New Mexico.