"If We Have Enough weapons to destroy the earth many times over; Why Do We Build More?"

by Andreas Toupadakis, Ph.D.
Former Employee of both Los Alamos National Laboratory and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

This is an appeal to every secretary, technician, custodian, scientist, engineer, and any other person whose participation supports the world war machine to withhold their skills from weapons work and from activities that support or enable weapons work.

"The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything except our thinking. Thus, we are drifting toward catastrophe beyond conception. We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if mankind is to survive."

- Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

We have a moral obligation and duty to think, speak, and act first as citizens for a peaceful world, and next as scientists. The higher our education is, the higher our responsibilities are for a humane world. Should we talk about science before we even think about what our science is for? That is precisely what we are doing. And that is why I resigned from my position as a scientist in the nuclear weapons program at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) as of January 31, 2000.

Albert Einstein warned us about the July 4 event in Washington, D.C. (see poster)

Science, which ought always to be directing the good of humanity, is assisting in the work of destruction, and it constantly inventing new means for killing the greatest number of people in the shortest amount of time. This twentieth century proved to be a century of human slaughter. In the 1914 war, 15% of casualties were civilian; in 1939; 50% in the wars fought in the 1950s; 75% in the 1990s; 90% of war casualties were civilians. Science that is used to terrorize people, kill them, or make them invalids is immoral science. It must be abolished immediately. If we do not act now, we may very well see our own children become victims in ways we have never dreamed of. We spend the majority of our lives tirelessly working to ensure our
Why We Are Here

Because the world we had imagined, this Spring:

We are here because a voice inside us, every time you look in the mirror of your soul, every time you look in the eyes of the people you love, and every time you look at a flower or a bird. Come out. I wonder how many scientists and world citizens have ever read the Russell-Einstein Manifesto? The general public, and even many men in positions of authority, has not realized what would be involved in a war with nuclear bombs. The general public still thinks in terms of the obliteration of cities. People can scarcely bring themselves to grasp that they, individually, and those whom they love are in imminent danger of perishing agonizingly.

We are here because the insistence of spirit and the authority of nature, the primacy of nature, our armies disbanded, how can we say that we trust in God? These are some of the issues that concerned scientists and engineers should immediately start working on worldwide:

1) Establish informed consent hiring practices at national weapons laboratories and all other scientific/military establishments.
2) Stop bringing high school and college students into the weapons labs.
3) Stop accepting research programs that fuel the war machine.
4) Encourage and help scientists to withhold their skills from weapons work.
5) Bring awareness to college and high school students about what has been prepared for them in their future.

I hope that my resignation from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and my letter of appeal and activities from now will help to start this campaign and that individuals from every nation will offer their support. This is a wake up call to all those who can hear the call of their conscience. And for those of us who tried to comfort ourselves while daring to call ourselves Christians, let it be known that Christianity is not compatible with war, with preparation for war, even for preparation to deter war. It never was.

I wonder where the words on the dollar bill "IN GOD WE TRUST" came from? Until our warriors are disarmed and our armies disbanded, how can we say that we trust in God?

Having contemplated on these matters, and having recognized the real and mis-represented mission of the U.S. National Laboratories, I decided to resign. I could not live my life in a way that goes against my conscience. These are some of the issues that concerned scientists and engineers should immediately start working on worldwide:

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- Andreas Toupadakis, Ph.D., March 24, 2000
For the sixth consecutive year the Holy Week Peace Walk began on Pentecost Sunday. But this was the first year the walk was blessed by college students finishing their weekend retreat (organized by the Wesley Foundation of Berkeley, CA and NDE). After the students wished us well on our pilgrimage, we walked away from the Federal Building in downtown Las Vegas.

We started with nine walkers. Charlie Hiltenhaus (of the Alliance of Atomic Veterans), Merlynn Rose (of the Shundahai Network) and ? joined 11s for the morning stroll through the Fremont Street area, where this tourist street’s security guard told us we could not parade through there. We had been chanting and passing out nuclear abolitionist flyers, and holding up anti-nuclear and peace signs.

About an hour later, arriving at the Department of Energy (D.O.E.) building, we planted sunflower seeds. This symbolic act was in concert with the words of U.S. Secretary of Defense, William J. Perry, from June 4th 1996: “Sunflowers instead of missiles in the soil will ensure peace for future generations”. (These words were spoken in Ukraine, at a former missile site, celebrating Ukraine’s national nuclear-weapons-free status. That year, the sunflower was adopted as the emblem of the abolitionist movement.)

Brother David hosted 11s at the Bartlett Avenue Friary (also the site of Poverello House & Pace Bene offices) for lunch. After walking that afternoon another 6 miles (to the Santa Fe mega-resort-casino-hotel), we drove back to sleep at the Friary. Joan Monastero made dinner and a prayer for us that night. Merlynn Rose served us pancakes on Monday morning there. Sunday’s walk was about 13 miles.

The rest of the days of the walk were generally about 10 miles each. On Tuesday we walked to the Lee Canyon turnoff (Hwy 156), to set up camp and take naps. It was during this time that a new pilgrim came looking for us. His name is Lloyd Watson, and he is the first man from Idaho to ever join an NDE walk. His pilgrimage is actually a long trek across the U.S. in order to create a play about Ammon Hennacy. (Ammon was one of the first protesters who came to Las Vegas in 1957 to pray and fast and picket against the hydrogen bombs being tested above-ground at the Test Site those years.)

Although Lloyd wanted to join our walk, our campsite was hidden from a roadside view, so he couldn’t find us until the next day when we arrived at Patricia Pavlin’s home in Cactus Springs. Patricia conducted an awesome ceremony at the Goddess Temple of Selkmet for us that Wednesday night.

On Thursday we crossed into Nye County, and were greeted by the menace of an Apache war helicopter buzzing 100 meters above our heads. The pilot waved to us. On Friday morning, our walk started two miles beyond the county line, and went a little more than four miles further, to the Peace Camp. Along the way, Charlie rejoined us, as did Joan, Brother David, Peter Ediger (of Pace Bene), Matteo Ferrero (Shundahai Network) and Michelle Xenos and her son Taro (also of Shundahai). The delegation of two dozen Japanese folks arrived a few minutes before our walk arrived. After words from Corbin and one of the Hibakusha (survivors of nuclear warfare), we proceeded to the north side of the freeway. The Japanese watched our Nuclear Stations of the Cross, and then supported us as we crossed the line at the Test Site gate. This was the second time the Tabernacle of the Desert has come to the Mercury gate at the N.T.S., but the first time it has been used in its proper form as a tent/canopy.

Each of the line-crossers stood in the Tabernacle of the Desert to individually tell his or her reason for being part of the Holy Week Peace Walk and crossing the line at this nuclear bomb testing ground. Eight men and five women crossed, were cited, and released.

Many of the cacti were in full bloom, and there was an abundance of greener this Spring in the Mojave desert. Each of the walkers felt very special to be a part of this year’s Peace Walk, and I hope many more will come walk the ways of peace with NDE again next year.

First time Tabernacle of the Desert is used in Tabernacle (canopy) form.

On January 1, 2000 the Tabernacle was three individual banners, and they were confiscated. Photo by Allan Sawyer.
F.O.R. presents: People’s Campaign for Nonviolence and Nevada Desert Experience is on along with Pace e Bene and the CRP.

Please come to this vigil: Tuesday, July 4: Vigil & leafletting at the Washington Monument 2pm to 8pm...prior to fireworks. We would like to bring one hundred people to spend July 4th in prayerful vigil and peaceful protest at the Washington Monument. Other national groups are doing the same throughout the summer at places like the Pentagon, White House, or the Capitol Building.

Now is the Time!: Come to Washington, DC to demand disarmament and justice! Hundreds of national and local grassroots peace and justice movements and organizations from all walks of life from all across the country are gathering together throughout the Summer of 2000 to help continue the creation of a culture of nonviolence and justice.

Contact the Fellowship Of Reconciliation for more information on The People’s Campaign for Nonviolence. Utilize their website <www.forusa.org> or ask them for a brochure by calling (914) 358-4601.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS IN THE PEOPLE’S CAMPAIGN SCHEDULE:

- **Saturday, July 1, 2000:** 7:00 p.m. Panel Discussion at Howard University Chapel with: Helen Caldicott, Mairead Maguire, Daniel Berrigan, Jim Lawson, Jonathan Schell, Arun Gandhi, Marian Wright Edelman, John Dear, and the Howard University Chapel Choir

- **Sunday, July 2, 2000:** 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Nonviolence Training at Howard University 2:00 p.m., The Dalai Lama speaks on the Washington Mall 8 p.m. evening vigil and breaking the fast for an end to the death penalty at the Supreme Court.

(On the following dates the activities are organized by the groups listed)

- **Monday, July 3:** American Friends Service Committee
- **Tuesday, July 4:** Nevada Desert Experience, Methodist Peace Fellowship, Pace e Bene (see this poster)
- **July 5-7:** FGR’s Youth Action Days
- **July 7-July 9th:** Intergenerational Peacebuilding Weekend
- **July 8th-9th:** Church of God Peace Fellowship gathering.
- **Monday, July 10:** War Resisters League
- **Tuesday, July 11:** Physicians for Human Rights - U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines
- **Wednesday, July 12:** Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
- **Thursday, July 13:** New Call to Peacemaking.
- **Friday, July 14:** “Stop the Hate” candlelight vigil—7 p.m. Lafayette Park, White House
- **Saturday, July 15th:** National “Stop the Hate” Day (October 5th) Organizing Workshop Sunday, July 16th: Abolition 2000: Vigil for Nuclear Disarmament
- **Monday, July 17:** Center for Conscience and War/HISBCO
- **Tuesday, July 18:** Peace Action Day
- **Wednesday, July 19:** Colombia Support Network
- **Thursday, July 20:** Jewish Peace Fellowship

Nevada Desert Experience, P. O. Box 46645, Las Vegas, NV 89114-6645, Phone 702-647-9363.
In coordination with Nevada Desert Experience on this Independence Day, KAIROS THEATRE COMPANY will hold a free performance of its production: A CLOWN, A HAMMER, A BOMB, AND GOD at 2:00 p.m. This is a one-person show about taking personal responsibility for nuclear disarmament. A CLOWN, A HAMMER, A BOMB, AND GOD is written by Daniel Krich, It is based on Carl Kabat's plowshares action, in which he dressed as a clown on April Fool's Day, 1994 and broke into an MX missile base in North Dakota. Actor Ben Roberts plays the activist priest. The production is directed by Rhett Wickham. For more information about this play, visit Karios' website: www.interport.net/~danmk

The KAIROS THEATRE COMPANY is one of the nation's leading theatre companies working toward social change. Their work is dedicated to the elimination of the three evils of racism, poverty, and militarism and the creation of a nonviolent, just, and peaceful world.

The performance will be held at the Nevada Desert Experience, 3150 Highway 160, Pahrump, NV 89048.

For more information, contact 702-646-4814.
On December 19th (the fourth Sunday of Advent), 1999 four people disbursed two warplanes. The activists are currently incarcerated in various facilities.

by Susan Crane

Sitting at a table in the Maryland State Prison for women, I enjoy the early morn-
ing quiet. The joint is overcrowded; we are moved here and there to any available bed. The first week here I was housed in the Mental Health unit, the second in the hole. Cities of anguish, frustration, and anger, the ratchet noise of cuffs, the buzz-clang of doors, and the slam of meal slots closing. The turnkeys wear what appear to be bulletproof vests, yet women are cuffed in back before emerging from cells to walk down the hall for a shower. As I to complete this tour of the underside of the prison, I’m now in a makeshift dorm area is the condemned basement of C-cottage. We hear about lead and asbestos, but what I see is water from waste pipes dripping down on us.

Most women I’ve met here could be better helped by a drug treatment program. I see each day how those who are addicted, mentally ill and poor. Label them as a tactic. Coming from a background of opposite. The continued economic sanctions cause malnutrition and death: the depleted uranium we fired during the Gulf War is carcinogenic and genetically destructive. The mother in Iraq loves her children. It’s our responsibility to protect our children and their children. Our love for the people of Iraq has to be shown in deeds. We need to share with them and protect them. Yet we as a nation do the opposite. The continued economic sanctions cause malnutrition and death; the depleted uranium we fired during the Gulf War is carcinogenic and genetically destructive. Our love for the people of Iraq has to be shown in deeds. We need to share with them and protect them. Yet we as a nation do the opposite. The continued economic sanctions cause malnutrition and death; the depleted uranium we fired during the Gulf War is carcinogenic and genetically destructive. The mother in Iraq loves her children. It’s our responsibility to protect our children and their children.

In advent, Philip Berrigan, Steve Kelly, Susan Crane #916-999 Maryland Correctional Institution for Women P.O. Box 735 Jessup MD 20794

Philip Berrigan #292-139 Roxbury Correctional Institution 18701 Roxbury Rd Hagerstown MD 21746

Rev Steve Kelly S.J. #292-110 Roxbury Correctional Institution 18701 Roxbury Rd Hagerstown MD 21746

Elizabeth Walz #73 2 Court House Court Towson MD 21204

Elizabeth Walz 5895-376

Suzan Crane #916-999 Maryland Correctional Institution for Women P.O. Box 535 Jessup MD 20794

Philip Berrigan, Steve Kelly, Elizabeth Walz and I went to the Air National Guard in Baltimore to begin to disarm a couple of A-10 jet fighters. The A-10s use munitions that have depleted uranium (DU) penetrators. The DU is dense, and will pierce through 4” of armor. It burns on impact, dispersing tiny particles into the air. These radioactive particles get into lungs, cuts, and digestive tracts. They poison the soil, plants, and water. Over 350 tons of uranium-238 and uranium-234 have been released into the environment. Yet in the climate of violence that we live in, such scandalous behavior seems almost normal and is even justified by many in the church.

Yet God gives us a new commandment: to love each other. I wonder how God sees us as we pay our federal tax, as we struggle to speak up while children are poisoned, when the whole of creation is threatened by our war-making. What are we commanded to do? Living nonviolently is a process—we struggle together to say no to death and yes to life.

The Plowshares: Vs. Depleted Uranium activists welcome mail. You can write to them at the addresses listed below. You may only send books from a book dealer or direct from the publisher.

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A Reflection on NDE's College Student Retreat

by Michael Christopher

Today is the beginning of my active nonviolence training. I do not mirror how long ago that I first learned of "active nonviolence" because each new day necessitates a renewal of its practice. I begin the practice every instance that life reveals a new form of violence because I already know that the world is a violent place but I aspire to be an instrument of nonviolence within it. Several times during the NDE Palm Sunday weekend retreat the phrase "violent culture" was used to describe the immensity of the human race's marriage with violence. It is generally accepted that violence works because it seeks to get things done clearly. When one country attacks another the inevitable response is to defend and counter the aggressor's act of violence with violence. Under the guise of justice, the aggressor receives exactly what is deserved but this type of justice does not stifle violence and is certainly not the only option. Within a "violent culture" the act of violence is acceptable and practically desirable under certain circumstances, but a life of active nonviolence teaches me that although violence may have its advantages it can not dispose of violence nor bring its use to an end.

Expiating violence is far from a simple process that has clearly marked steps, but it is a process. The first step in the long and arduous process begins when violence is recognized in its many forms. It takes me time and effort to accept the responsibility of my own violence towards creation and then recognize those acts of violence that make my life possible. Transformation is then the only response to the recognition of a life of violence. Even before the trip to the desert I was committed to living a life inspired by people like Gandhi and Martin Luther King, but as the many levels of violence unfolded before me I learn just how rudimentary my transformations do in the path of nonviolence need to be. I must seek to change what it was that raised me. I am not so naive to believe that I can change everything in the eyes of the world for I can only change myself.

The desert touched something inside me that I have not seen for a long time. Something deep and profound about the way a person is raised shows me that violence starts from the birth of every infant. The words of Tennyson express for me the process of assimilating active nonviolence against the tremendous obstacles one finds in the world:

"I stretch lame hands of faith, and grupe, And gather dust and chaff, and call To what I feel is Lord of all."

And faintly trust the larger hope.

The practice of active nonviolence takes all that one knows and accepts to be true and simply "the ways of the world" and turns them upside down. It is a moment of inspiration that starts me down the path and faith that keeps me on it. I can only hope when I reach for the completion that there will be One there to meet me. As for the struggle to end nuclear proliferation and ultimately rid the world of nuclear weapons I have one prayer to keep in mind:

"We gather in peace with the hope that the peace we share will spread. Through the practice of active nonviolence we seek to resolve conflict in a humane and effective way, and what is more we seek to transform. We aspire to transform ourselves as well as those on the other side of the line. We break through the barriers created by lines to trust that which transcends us all. When we cross lines and break through barriers we find even more conflict but the object was never to succeed, merely to change. We must change ourselves in the hope that others will follow and when we are all together living without violence we will truly see what it is to be stewards of creation."

Mark Your Calendars for the 20th Annual
Lenten Desert Experience; LDE XX
February 28th to April 15th 2001, On Ash Wednesday (February 28th), Bishop Tom Gumbleton will pray with us at the N.T.S. in the morning, and speak at a Las Vegas Church in the evening. There will be a weekend retreat in Las Vegas with opportunity for civil resistance at the N.T.S. LDE XX will culminate with a Holy Thursday Seder and Good Friday Nuclear Stations of the Cross (April 12th & 13th). We particularly welcome college students to the seventh annual Holy Week Peace Walk.

Welcome to New NAGs

We would like to welcome all the NDE Affiliate Groups (NAGs) into the fold. NAGs are already existing small groups who agree to add the abolition of nuclear weapons to their faith-based agenda of activities. We invite all NAGs to please keep in contact with us regarding prayers and resistance activities they conduct, so that all Affiliate Groups can potentially learn from each other as the need to abolish a nuclear movement picks up steam. Contact the Oakland office of NDE for more information on becoming a NAG.

S.MM, CA: The Friendly Planet
Scottsdale, AZ: Loreto Disarmament Committee

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Saa Jose, CA: San Joe Peace Saa Francisca, CA: Presentation Salt Lake City, UT: (Unnamed Group. contact: Dr. Bridge McKeever) Orange County, CA: Peace With Justice Committee at California Pacific United Methodist Church Ian Gardner (in name) of Orange County La Madera NM: (Unnamed Group, contact: John & Mauna Richardson) Huntington Beach CA: Secular Franciscans Berkeley CA: Franciscan Affinity Group
JOB AVAILABLE:
We are seeking to hire a full-time Development/Education Coordinator. Duties include overseeing fund-raising plans and coordinating outreach to various constituencies, including youth. To apply or inquire, please contact Cindy Pile in mid-July: (510) 849-1540. Deadline is August 1st.

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

U.S. CONDUCTS NUCLEAR
WEAPONS TESTING!
Four more Plutonium Bombs will be exploded this year at the Nevada Test Site.

Calendar for Faith-Based Nuclear Abolitionists

July 4th: NDE Vigil in Washington D.C. (See poster inside this issue for more info.)

July 31: Pax Christi’s anti-nuclear action at the Yorktown Naval Weapons Station, VA, Pax Christi US, (814) 433-4955.

August 5 - 6: Washington D.C., “Building a Culture for Peace and Justice” Evening Panel Discussion; candlelight vigil for disarmament, marking the exact hour of the bombing of Hiroshima; March from Lincoln Memorial to the White House for an end to the Economic Sanctions on Iraq & support nuclear disarmament; Teach in on Iraq. (See poster inside this issue for more info.)

August 9, Nagasaki Day: Peace Action Protest in New Mexico at Los Alamos National Lab. (Contact Peace Action New Mexico @ 505 989 4812 for more info.)

Sept. 5 - 8: Into the Dragon’s Mouth, A Silent Retreat at Los Alamos National Lab, contact: Greg Mello (303) 982-7747 or Vilma Ruiz (email: vnruz@lmg.org)

October 16, 2000: A Day Without The Pentagon; regional activities including morning prayers for peace and safety (cessation of poison fire production) at the Nevada Test Site, December 12, 2001; Hiroshima 2001. Nuclear abolition conference in Japan, contact: Steve Leeper: 1-4-3-40, Kamiyacho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730, Japan. e-mail: transnet@urban.nc.jp

January 25 - 29, 2001: Remember Operation Ranger-50th anniversary of nuclear bombing @ NTS; for more info email Charlie Hilfenhaus of the Alliance of Atomic Vets, chilfenhaus@juno.com or call Marc Page of NDE, (702) 646-4814.

February 28, 2001: Ash Wednesday Prayer and Action at Nevada Test Site.

April 12-13, 2001: Holy Thursday Seder & Good Friday Nuclear Stations Of The Cross at Nevada Test Site.

Visit our website: NevadaDesertExperience.org