

ABOLISH NUCLEAR *weapons*

The US and Russia, together, have more than 12,000 strategic nuclear weapons. Over 4,000 of these are pointed at each other, ready to be launched and reach their targets in minutes. As recently as 1998 India and Pakistan were initiated into the nuclear “club” by completing nuclear weapons tests. Today, tens of thousands of nuclear weapons still inhabit the world. While the Cold War may have ended, the nuclear threat has not. **The only way to ensure that nuclear weapons will never be used - whether purposefully, or accidentally - is global abolition.**

Nukes Ready to Launch in Minutes

While it's been over a decade since the end of the Cold War, the US and Russia have yet to significantly change their nuclear postures. Both countries have weapons still on “hair-trigger alert” - leaders have mere minutes to decide whether to launch an attack. A false alarm or computer glitch could result in accidental nuclear war.

Nuclear Testing

The first step toward halting new nuclear weapons development is for the US to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The CTBT is an international agreement that would establish a permanent ban on nuclear weapons testing. The CTBT would make it much harder for nonnuclear weapons states to develop nuclear weapons. Regrettably, the US Senate failed to ratify the CTBT in October 1999 and current prospects for CTBT ratification look dim.

Arms Reduction Treaties Halted

The US and Russia have made considerable progress in arms control through the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or START, process. Under START I, both countries have agreed to reduce

Nuclear Nations

United States:

The U.S. has over 10,500 nuclear warheads in its stockpile. The U.S. is the only country that has used nuclear weapons against another.*

Russia:

Russia has over 20,000 nuclear warheads.

France:

France has 450 nuclear warheads.

China:

China has about 400 nuclear warheads.

United

Kingdom:

The U.K. has 185 nuclear warheads.

Israel, India, and Pakistan possess unknown numbers of nuclear weapons.

**these numbers include active, retired, reserve weapons and those awaiting dismantlement.*

(source: National Resources Defense Council)

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their strategic nuclear arsenals to 6,000. START II would require both the US and Russia to further reduce their strategic arsenals to 3,500 warheads. While both the Russian Duma and the US Senate have ratified START II, the treaty has not yet entered into force.

While President Bush has abandoned the treaty process, he and President Putin have informally agreed to reduce both US and Russian nuclear arsenals. However, President Bush has made it clear that he does not plan to actually destroy retired warheads. Instead, he will put them in storage where they can easily be reactivated.

“... as a nation we have no greater responsibility than to bring the nuclear era to a close. Our present policies, plans and postures governing nuclear weapons make us prisoner still to an age of intolerable danger. We cannot at once keep sacred the miracle of existence and hold sacrosanct the capacity to destroy it.”

— General Lee Butler, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), former Commander-in-Chief, United States Strategic Air Command

The Movement for Abolition

In response to current challenges to the elimination of nuclear weapons, a growing movement of grassroots activists, religious leaders, and policymakers are working for global abolition. We now have a golden opportunity to turn away from the deadliest weapons humans have ever created. **NOW** is the time to take action and create a nuclear weapon-free world.

Urge the President and your Senators to take the following concrete steps toward global abolition:

Write to the President and tell him to “stand down” nuclear weapons that are currently on high alert.

President George W. Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Write to your Senators and urge them to revive the CTBT, complete the ratification of START II, and begin negotiations for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The Honorable _____
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Local Contact: _____