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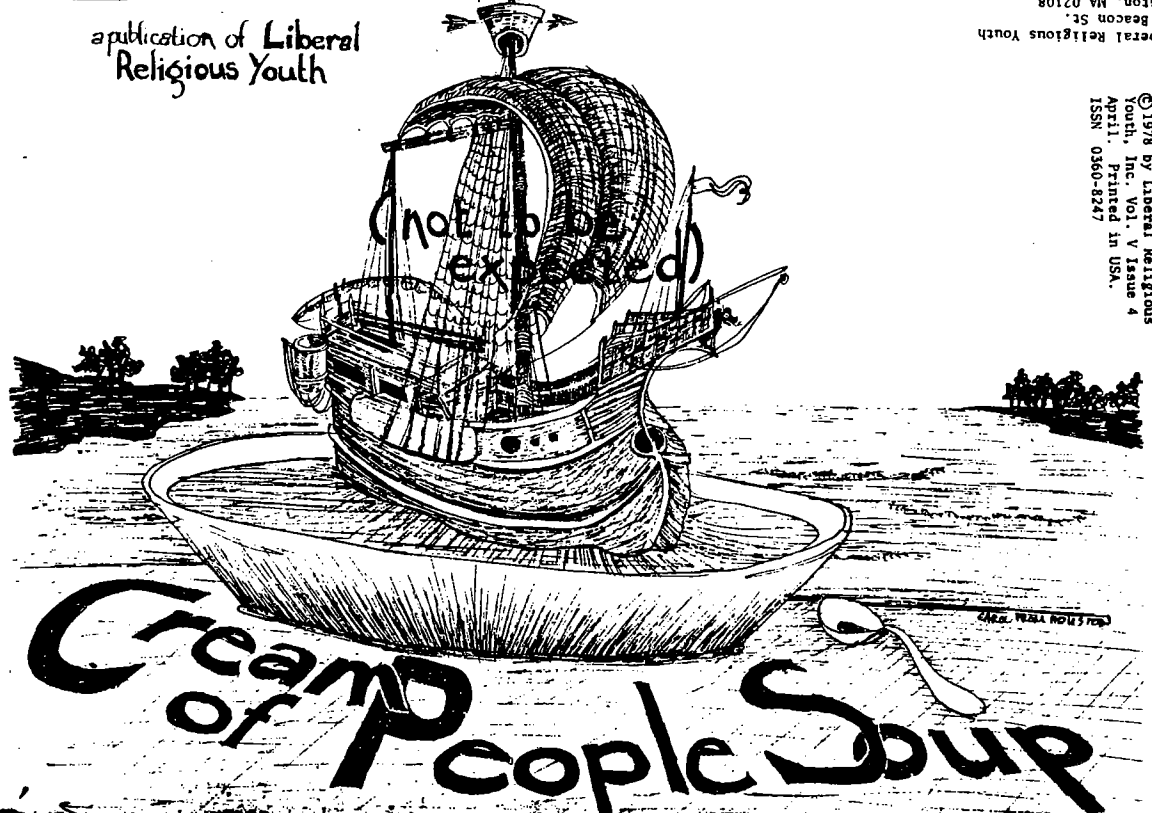
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# Cream of People Soup

## BOMBS AWAY by Moira Doyle

(written from the viewpoint of a U.S. citizen)

On February 15-17, over fifty concerned young people, mostly LK'ers, got together to attend a seminar on nuclear disarmament. The two-day conference was held in New York City and was sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist-United Nations office. Bob Brown, the office director; Joel Schofield, UU minister; and Osano Kenyariri, conference planner; organized the event. Their hard work helped all who attended become more aware of the vital threat that the nuclear arms race poses on our lives. Through a series of speakers, films, and discussion groups, our consciousness was raised on this issue. It made me more aware that powers beyond my control could determine my fate.

The U.S. government will spend up to 116.4 billion dollars from October 1st, 1977-September 30, 1978 on the military. The world now spends over 350 billion dollars a year on arms. All nations combined spend more on the military than on education! The U.S. spends three times the amount of money for arms than on health care. The U.S. will borrow fourteen billion this year to pay for the defense departments's deficit. We will pay forty-one billion dollars in interest this year due to borrowing in the past for more military purchases and operations. The money spent on one trident submarine could send sixteen million people to school.

There are over twenty five countries who spend over a billion dollars a year on arms. The U.S. government will send some ten billion dollars of arms abroad to Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and other countries, and has given over ten billion dollars worth of non-nuclear arms to third world countries.

The amount of stockpiled nuclear weapons in this country is equivalent to three hundred cartons (fifteen tons) of TNT per person. Imagine having your and your family's amount of TNT in your backyard. Even though it isn't in your backyard, it exists as a threat.

The global nuclear arsenal now includes over twelve thousand strategic weapons (those designed to hit the U.S.S.R. from the U.S. and vice versa), and twenty two thousand tactical weapons, for use at relatively close

range. Seven thousand of these tactical weapons belong to the U.S. and are located in countries throughout western Europe. Most of these weapons have an explosive power of twenty megatons, with the capacity to destroy an area one hundred times larger than the original nuclear bomb. Scientists now feel there are more than enough nuclear weapons to bring about the total destruction of the earth.

The U.S. and the U.S.S.R. have at least sixty times as many strategic weapons as they need for defense purposes. Each nuclear reactor produces enough material to build a weapon per week, with the capacity to kill ten times more people than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. We now have less control over nuclear weapons than before, because of the advanced technology of being able to detonate a bomb without actually having possession of it.

There are now five nuclear weapon states (countries which spend over a billion dollars a year on nuclear weapons), a sixth country with an atomic bomb (India) and two countries which may have the bomb but won't admit it (South Africa and Israel). There are thirty-seven more countries which can be considered "near nuclear" because they have sufficient technological experience to develop nuclear weapons in a short period of time. Countries which might go nuclear in the near future are those in the Middle East. Pakistan fears neighboring India which has a bomb. South Korea is in constant fear of North Korea. Yugoslavia is threatened by the U.S.S.R. and South Africa is worried about their new neighbors. With all of these countries having a bomb, the likelihood of local nuclear war increases. I find it very ironic that in most of these countries the needs of the citizens are not being met.

Along with the threat of our own and other countries having nuclear arms, we must also consider the threat of these weapons getting into the wrong hands. Basic chemistry courses teach the technology needed to make a nuclear bomb. With the availability of missile material, the opportunity of terrorist and crime organizations obtaining these materials grows. Safe guards against these materials can never be effective enough to stop

groups who really want them. When individuals in small groups are able to obtain and make nuclear weapons, I think it's time we took a long look at our viewpoint as to whether or not we want to live in a world where our lives are constantly threatened by nuclear arms.

So how does the arms race affect you? Every time nuclear weapons are made the economy becomes less secure and inflation rises. This is because arms, unlike other goods, do not contribute to the economy. When a car is produced it is purchased and sold again, thus both the economy and the producer benefit. The car can then be sold again, benefitting the over all economy. When arms are built they go nowhere, usually left to rust and become obsolete. Sometimes they are used to kill people. Money used to build arms is inflationary money.

Not only does the production of nuclear weapons hurt the economy, but it raises the price of scarce resources used in their production. Because the arms industry is a highly skilled industry it employs relatively few people per dollar, whereas money spent on other needs would create more employment per dollar spent. Ninety percent of all weapon development and production is centered in five major industries: aircraft, missiles, communications and electronics, ordnance, and ship building. In 1976, twenty-five companies received over fifty percent of all the valued contracts from the Department of Defense. Five percent of the total work force is engaged in military work. America's defense work absorbs over one-half of the scientific engineering talent in the country.

Nuclear build-ups occur when a mood develops to scare one country into preparing for war. If one country has nuclear arms, is it surprising that they all do? It's a form of defense that is made secure by the rationale that everyone has one. The security is false. If one nuclear bomb can level a country, killing everything, how can 22,000 be in any way secure or safe? All these stockpiles of weapons waiting around is an invitation to global nuclear war, not only between the U.S.

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