

END THE NUCLEAR NIGHTMARE

On this anniversary of the first use of weapons of mass destruction, we remember the lives lost at Ground Zero in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, when the United States bombed Japan, incinerating 100,000 in a single instant. Just a few days later on August 9, another 70,000 were killed by the atomic bombing of Nagasaki. Countless tens of thousands have died of radiation exposure and cancers in years since.

We remember the beginning of the nuclear arms race between the Soviet Union and the United

States; the nuclear arms race continues even though the Soviet Union is no more.

The “war on terrorism” has given the Bush administration new confidence to roll back four decades of progress (slow as it has been) on nuclear arms control and to put nuclear weapons back on the front burner of U.S. military strategy.

On this anniversary we think of the billions and trillions of dollars wasted on building weapons that must never be used again, while countless human needs have gone unmet.

The world is once again engulfed in war: this time an open-ended, brutal war against “terrorism.” Under the rubric of fighting terrorism, the U.S. has significantly increased military spending, rolled back civil liberties, ushered in a comprehensive right-wing agenda and established new military, economic and political relations with human rights abusers and dictatorships throughout the world.

The United States has always threatened “first strike” use of nuclear weapons. But now, the Bush administration has dramatically expanded the role of weapons on mass destruction, threatening non-nuclear states with nuclear weapons and testing new weapons designs.

Bush’s plan is not just empty rhetoric. It is backed by cold hard cash. This year’s nuclear weapons budget is 130% larger than it was 10 years ago.

The U.S. has spent more than \$5.5 trillion dollars on nuclear weapons since the beginning of the nuclear age, an average of \$98 billion a year of our hard-earned tax dollars.

The administration has undermined and destroyed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, and the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

OUR WORK IS NOT FINISHED! United, people of conscience can prove to be the world’s most vital resource. Join us as we seek to finish the task, to end the nuclear nightmare.

Discover how not to pay for weapons of mass destruction

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