

# Bomb Tests Kill People

President Kennedy knows that is a fact:

*" . . . there is no amount of radiation so small that it has no ill effects on anybody. There is actually no such thing as a minimum permissible dose. Perhaps we are talking about only a very small number of individual tragedies—the number of atomic age children with cancer, the new victims of leukemia, the damage to skin tissues here and reproductive systems there—perhaps these are too small to measure with statistics. But they, nevertheless, loom very large indeed in human and moral terms. Moreover, there is still much that we do not know—and too often in the past we have minimized these perils and shrugged aside these dangers, only to find that our estimates were faulty and the real dangers were worse than we knew."*

—SENATOR JOHN F. KENNEDY, November 2, 1959

But fallout from nuclear tests is not the greatest danger of the accelerated arms race:

*"Every man, woman and child lives under a nuclear sword of Damocles, hanging by the slenderest of threads, capable of being cut at any moment by accident or miscalculation or by madness. The weapons of war must be abolished before they abolish us."*

—from address of PRESIDENT KENNEDY before the U.N., September 25, 1961

President Kennedy balanced both of these grave dangers to mankind against the military threat from Communist countries. He had the power to decide for more radiation fallout and possible nuclear annihilation for all mankind. We believe that neither human life nor human values can be defended and extended by nuclear weapons. We have the moral obligation to say this with all our being. We hope you will join us in this appeal for a change of heart—for a new direction.

**PEACE ACTION CENTER**

**1731 Park Road, N.W.**

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## U.N. ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL U THANT:

"In the first place, these tests, when announced, were objected to very vigorously by many eminent scientists all over the world, and scientists with no axe to grind. Secondly, it is common knowledge that outer space is no

## ELEVEN AMERICAN SCIENTISTS:

"The earth's environment is not the domain for potentially disruptive experimentation by any single individual or even any group of nations. No individual and no nation has the right to tamper with the vast balance of nature. Thus we view with dismay experiments which affect the balance of natural forces whether they are under the guise of military necessity or of scientific investigation.

Several eminent scientists, some from other countries, have suggested that the 'rainbow series' of high altitude nuclear tests which the United States has announced that it will make in June and July could affect the balance of natural forces around the Van Allen Belt. While the United States may have military or other reasons for initiating such tests, the stated scientific reasons do not automatically justify such testing without proper international consultation.

Self-certification of such space research by United States scientists or by those of any other nation is no longer an adequate guarantee of the desirability of experimentation in our shrinking world.

country's territory. It is the common property of all countries. And I feel that these projected high-altitude tests are a manifestation of a very dangerous psychosis which is in evidence today." (June 5, 1962).

Experiments of this magnitude demand international approval and, if possible, international cooperation.

Now that the Consultative Group on Potentially Harmful Effects of Space Experiments has just been created by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), we urge that the United States postpone all projected high altitude tests until such time as this consultative group can make and issue a judgment on the scientific effects of such tests."

Dr. Edward U. Condon, *Washington University*; Dr. William C. Davidon, *Haverford College*; Dr. David L. Hill of *Connecticut*; Dr. Herbert Jehle, *George Washington University*; Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, *Ohio State University*; Dr. M. Stanley Livingston, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*; Dr. Kirtley F. Mather, *Harvard University*; Dr. Victor Paschkis, *Columbia University*; Dr. Harlow Shapley, *Harvard University*; Dr. Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, *Marine Biological Laboratory*; Dr. Maurice B. Visscher, *University of Minnesota*.

## EDITORIALS:

The New York Times, June 5, 1962: The High-Altitude Tests

"The failure of our first attempt to explode a high-altitude nuclear device in the current series calls attention again to the fact that the United States is preparing to carry out these tests unilaterally despite protests of many leading astronomers and astrophysicists in this and other countries, including Britain. The gist of these protests is that such high-altitude explosions may radically change, or even completely destroy, the Van Allen Radiation Belts that surround the earth and thus deprive mankind of some vital information about our space environment that a study of these belts is expected to provide.

While scientists are by no means agreed that a nuclear explosion at the proposed altitude of 500 miles would seriously damage

the radiation belts, which reach a height of thousands of miles, many object to the fact that such tampering with our space environment, which belongs to all the inhabitants of the earth, is to be done without international scientific consultation. This appears to us to be a valid criticism.

Man has tampered, and is still tampering, with his immediate environment on many fronts, and as a result he has disturbed, and is continuing to disturb, the balance of nature in such a way that many living species are doomed to extinction. Until now, however, most of these acts have been carried out within national boundaries so that the question of international consultation does not immediately arise.

But when it comes to tampering with the environment of outer space, the problem assumes for the first time a global aspect that raises the question of the right of any nation to act unilaterally in such matters. If it is true that such tests are made necessary by the demands of our national security, the question still remains whether or not our national security would not be better served by consultation with an international body of scientists in the free world, whose security is as vitally involved as is ours. Furthermore, in unilaterally carrying out such tests, we are giving the U.S.S.R. an excuse for conducting similar tests on its own in outer space, thus opening a new Pandora's Box of potential evils."

THE VAN ALLEN BELT EXPLOSIONS ARE SCHEDULED SOON. WIRE THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TODAY. ASK FOR POSTPONEMENT OF HIGH ALTITUDE TESTS UNLESS AND UNTIL THEY CAN BE AGREED UPON BY AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION. THERE ARE NO COMPELLING MILITARY REASONS FOR THIS ARROGANT ACTION.

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Reprint of a statement by  
National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy  
17 East 45th Street, New York 17, New York





## THE ARROGANCE OF NUCLEAR NATIONS

For the past fifteen years the nuclear powers have been poisoning the atmosphere that all men must breathe. The people of the world have had no opportunity to vote on this issue.

The United States has carried this arrogance even further than the other nuclear powers. Through nuclear tests over several years in the Eniwetok area the United States usurped wide areas of the Pacific Ocean, rendered certain Marshall Islands uninhabitable, moved people from their ancestral islands without their consent, and poisoned fish on which millions depend for food.

Now, the present test series of the United States intends to invade outer space which affects all life on the planet earth. This act carries the cold war and arms race into space research and exploration, and points up the hypocrisy of proposals for peaceful cooperation in space.

## CAN PEOPLE REGAIN CONTROL

It is clear that the people of the world have lost control of their destiny. Governments of nuclear nations now have the power to lead all mankind to destruction. The majority of the people of the world do not live in nuclear nations and have no possibility of reversing the present immoral direction. This condition presents a great obligation and responsibility to citizens of the nuclear powers.



We urge you to action against this "Very Dangerous Psychosis." Come to or telephone Peace Action Center, 1731 Park Road, N. W., Washington 10, D. C. Phone: 232-6626.