

NEW  
FACTS  
ABOUT  
NUCLEAR  
WAR

the

NUCLEAR  
WINTER

# the NUCLEAR WINTER

In November of 1983, a conference was held in America\* that brought together scientists from the United States, the Soviet Union and many other countries. They met to ask, **WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THE WORLD'S CLIMATE IF THERE WAS A NUCLEAR WAR?**

Their answer produced new findings that neither scientists nor governments had ever considered.

What we must now realise is that nuclear war would not only bring destruction through blast, heat, and radiation on a scale that we have never seen, it would also create conditions of darkness and cold that would put at risk the entire human species. We could no longer cling to the hope of some kind of recovery, for life on the planet would literally freeze to death in a horrifying 'nuclear winter'.

**'It is not yet too late. We can safeguard the planetary civilisation and the human family if we so choose.'**

Prof. Carl Sagan, director of Planetary Studies at Cornell University, who contributed two years research to the conference.

## **Q. What would cause a Nuclear Winter?**

**A.** A thick dust cloud that would spread around our planet and block out the sunlight.

A nuclear war would throw up millions of tons of debris and smoke into the atmosphere, making midday seem like a moonlit night. Very quickly temperatures would fall to a minimum of  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  and remain there for months, making survival impossible. These effects would first be felt in the northern hemisphere, but, as the cloud spreads, the whole planet would suffer.

## **Q. Were there any other effects that we hadn't known before?**

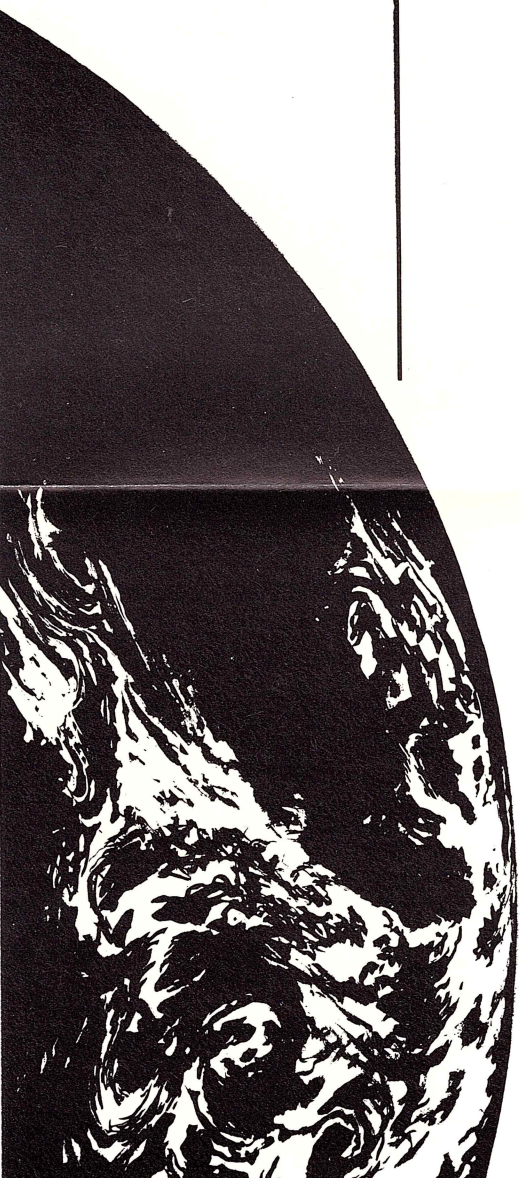
**A.** The scientists reported that vast amounts of gases from fires would eat away at the thin ozone layer in the upper atmosphere. This now protects us from harmful ultra-violet rays, and without it we would be blinded and exposed to lethal doses of sunburn. They also said that radioactive fallout (which produces cancers) would be far greater than previous calculations. Rain will become a deadly poison, undrinkable and untouchable.

## **Q. How many nuclear weapons would have to be fired for this to happen?**

**A.** The conference looked at a war where about a third of the world's nuclear weapons were used (equal to 250,000 Hiroshima type bombs). And they also looked at so called 'small' exchanges where just 1% of the world's nuclear arsenal might be used. To their horror their computer models showed that both major and small wars could trigger the effects of the nuclear winter.

## **Q. What should we learn from all this?**

**A.** 'The only conclusion can be that nuclear devices are not, and cannot be, a tool of war, nor can they be a tool of politics; they are simply a tool of suicide.' The speaker was the Vice President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. To his surprise the conference burst into applause. and yet...



## And Yet. . .

The Nuclear arms build-up continues, with weapons of increasing accuracy (such as Cruise and Pershing II missiles) being designed for a nuclear war fighting role.

## And Yet. . .

NATO believes that a nuclear war can be kept 'limited' and is prepared to use nuclear weapons first. (It has more than 3,000 short range 'battlefield' nuclear weapons ready for use against a conventional Soviet attack) Even a 'successful' first strike, just aimed at military targets, would spell disaster for the entire planet.

## And Yet. . .

Local councils are being forced to plan civil defence for a nuclear war. We are being asked to believe that such a war can be fought, won and survived. Home Office civil defence exercises have based survival figures on a 200 megaton exchange — twice as much as it would take to bring about the 'nuclear winter'!

**If you find these facts alarming and want to join with others working for genuine nuclear disarmament and an end to the arms race, then please fill in the form below.**

**Join us today — it is only together that our voice will be heard.**

## YES, I'D LIKE TO JOIN THE CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

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Membership for one year is £3 (£1 unwaged) payable to:  
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THE QUAY, WIVENHOE, ESSEX



- The release of just 1% of the world's nuclear arsenal, (less than is planned for in a 'limited' nuclear war) would destroy the planet's ecology beyond recovery.

\* The Conference on the Long Term Worldwide Biological Consequences of Nuclear War was held in Washington, DC, in November, 1983. It was sponsored by over thirty US scientific institutions, and supported by a Scientific Advisory Board of over sixty scientists from ten countries, including E. Germany and USSR. Four Nobel Prize winners took part and all material was independently checked in the USA and the Soviet Union.



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