

# SANA

## SCIENTISTS AGAINST NUCLEAR ARMS

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Please reply to:

To all members of CND Executive

### THE WORLD AFTER NUCLEAR WAR

Conference on the Long-term Worldwide Biological Consequences of Nuclear War

Washington, D.C., October 31 - November 1 1983

This was an event of exceptional importance to all concerned with the threat of nuclear war and the now acutely urgent task of stopping the nuclear arms race and reversing it, before it is too late. We are going to have to take steps to ensure that what was reported at this Conference becomes widely known, not only throughout the membership of CND and the peace movement, but also by the general public. Meanwhile, I think it is important that leading members of CND should be briefed, and for this reason I have prepared a file from the materials I brought back from Washington. (I attended the Conference, incidentally, in my official capacity as Dean of Science of the Open University).

This file contains the following papers:

1. Extracts from the Conference Programme, including THE MOSCOW LINK (see below)
2. Conference Origins, Steering Committee and Sponsors
3. SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE FINDINGS.

The Conference was remarkable (it was the most remarkable scientific conference I have ever attended) in that:

- a) The findings were new, quite unexpected, of dramatic significance and extremely well presented.
- b) The basic work on the Global Atmospheric Effects of Nuclear War had been checked independently by a large number of the world's top experts in the field of atmospheric physics and meteorology; three independent US studies and two independent Soviet studies came up with almost identical results. The Soviet studies were done by the two major centres working in the field in the USSR, one of them being the main computing centre of the Academy of Sciences. The scientists who did this work attended the Washington Conference and reported on their results. I think that, within the limits of any atmospheric science computations, the essential findings can be taken as fully validated.
- c) There was a live discussion between the people at the Washington Conference and a specially assembled group of experts from the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Moscow, including Academician Velikov, Vice President of the USSR Academy. This was achieved by two-way satellite TV. The dialogue lasted an hour and a half, and demonstrated unanimity not only on the scientific findings but on the central policy conclusion: NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE ABSOLUTELY USELESS. This was expressed quite explicitly by Academician Velikov in his summing up statement towards the end. He said (as near as I can recall the exact words): "Nuclear weapons are useless. They cannot be used as instruments of war or as instruments of policy. They are not the 'muscle' of military strength on the body of any country. On the contrary, they are a cancerous growth which must be cut out. We face the simple choice: either we kill that cancer or it will kill us". This statement was greeted by prolonged applause by the 500 participants in the Washington Conference (who were viewing the Link on large-screen projection Tv) and by the 100 or so Soviet

scientists who were assembled in the Tv studio in Moscow.

d) Among the 'visual aids' used to great effect by Carl Sagan in his presentation, there was a short (about 5 min) film depicting the environmental aftermath of nuclear war, as darkness descends and the inland temperatures drop to minus 30 degrees (centigrade). Steps are being taken to procure copies of this film. SANA will produce speakers notes to go with it. It should be widely used by CND groups.

I also enclose copies of the article in the Guardian of 3rd November by Norman Myers. This is a fair account of the findings.

Mike Pentz

4th November 1983.