

NURMEMBERG PLEDGE

On February 3, 1987, the government of the United States detonated a nuclear device at the underground Nevada Test Site. This test was conducted with full knowledge that the Soviet Union had announced it would end its 1-1/2 year long unilateral ban on testing in response. Thus, the United States committed a crime unparalleled in the history of humankind; the resumption of nuclear weapons testing can only escalate the nuclear arms race, which by its logic can only lead to the destruction of our planet and all life upon it. I am frightened and outraged.

As a law-abiding citizen of the United States, I have no choice. I am obligated by both moral conviction and legal mandate to engage in nonviolent direct action to halt the testing. **IN THE NEXT WAR THE PEOPLE WON'T BE BROUGHT TO THE OVENS, THE OVENS WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE PEOPLE.** The testing of nuclear weapons is not only immoral, it is illegal under customary and statutory international law. Numerous treaties and charters which have been signed by the United States prohibit crimes against peace and crimes against humanity. These crimes are defined to include planning and preparation for wars of aggression, targeting civilian populations, causing unnecessary suffering, damaging the natural environment, mass poisoning and genocide. It is clear that the testing of nuclear weapons violates both the letter and the intent of these international agreements, which are part of U. S. domestic law under the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution.

Furthermore, the London Charter, which codifies the Nuremberg Principles and which was signed by the United States in 1945, as well as the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, mandate not only a citizen's right, but a citizen's obligation to act to prevent crimes against humanity.

United States Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson, acting at the time as the chief U.S. prosecutor at the Nuremberg tribunals, declared:

"If certain acts in violation of treaties are crimes, they are crimes whether the United States does them or whether Germany does them, and we are not prepared to lay down a rule of criminal conduct against others which we would not be willing to have invoked against us."

At Nuremberg, following the holocaust of World War II, the United States tried, convicted, and executed others for the crime of obeying their government when that government demanded of them crimes against humanity. Millions more, who were not tried, were none the less guilty of the crime of silence.

**TO REMAIN SILENT NOW IS TO BE COMPLICIT IN CRIMES.** The United States Government and all of the individuals who make up its various planning and implementation, law enforcement and judicial agencies, and all citizens have a responsibility to ensure that there are no further United States nuclear weapons tests, and to thereby take a meaningful step towards global security, disarmament and a more peaceful and just world.



Signature

3/12/88

Date