

COMMITTEE TO BRIDGE THE GAP

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Dear Friend,

You have been generous in your support of Bridge the Gap in the past, and I write to you now to ask for your assistance again.

I have enclosed some news clippings and other materials about our recent work. Our current activities include work opposing the use of nuclear power in orbit, intervention in the Atomic International special nuclear materials license renewal proceeding, and continued efforts to stop commerce in weapons-grade nuclear materials.

We have also begun two new projects that I think you might find exciting: **START-Watch**, an effort which we coordinate, in cooperation with the Council on Nuclear Affairs and LA Physicians for Social Responsibility, to monitor progress towards a START agreement designed to reduce strategic nuclear weapons, and **DOE-Watch**, which monitors safety issues at the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons facilities.

START has been billed as producing 50% cuts, yet our analysis shows that most of these cuts are fictional due to misuse of rather unique "counting rules," which simply cease to count a great many weapons that are nonetheless quite real. DOE has been forced to close many of its bomb factories for safety reasons and promises not to restart them unless there is no risk, yet our initial assessment is that there is tremendous pressure to start them up again without resolving the very serious safety issues involved. We hope both projects will make a contribution to getting the truth out, moving towards a cessation of production of new nuclear weapons and the creation of genuine deep cuts in current arsenals.

To do this work, we need your help. I have recently resigned my position as Director of the Adlai Stevenson Program on Nuclear Policy at the University of California to return full-time to Bridge the Gap and we are expanding the organization by bringing a number of new people on board. Much of the work we do is done on a volunteer basis, the rest on considerably less than would be reasonable pay at "normal" jobs. We do this because we care about peace and environmental issues and know that we can make a difference. We know you feel the same way. Can you help us financially keep the work going?

Over the years, we have created a reputation for being very effective on very little money. We were the first group to shut down an operating reactor (UCLA's); we forced the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to ban the use of weapons-grade nuclear material at dozens of its reactors and reduce its shipments of the material abroad; we made a major contribution after Chernobyl to shutting down the Department of Energy's Hanford N-reactor, which was producing plutonium for bombs; we were a major contributor to the London Dumping Convention and the US government banning the practice, domestically and internationally, of dumping radioactive waste at sea, freeing the oceans from an environmental injury that had been continuing for twenty years; and we have created widespread international support for our proposal to ban space nuclear power sources from being put into orbit. Star Wars program managers tell us that our work has made life very difficult for their plans to orbit scores for these devices to power SDI battle stations.

While I was in Washington, DC, earlier this year, I asked many people working for national public interest groups based there if they could point me toward organizations that they felt were effective, creative, pro-active, "fast on their feet," with a strategy and follow-through that produced results. One man, working for the Arms Control Association, told me he couldn't really think of any good models based in Washington, but had I heard of a group based in LA called the "Committee to Bridge the Gap?" That group, he said, not knowing I was associated with it, was more creative and effective on a national level than most of the DC based groups he knew!

What a nice unintended compliment! And we do it on such a small fraction of those big groups' income. Can you help us? Your contributions are tax-deductible and very cost-effective -- no waste, no fancy offices or huge salaries, no frills, just hard day-to-day work that produces results. As you approach the end of this tax year, or begin the new year, please think of helping us carry on our work. Checks should be made out to the Campus Committee to Bridge the Gap, and are deductible on both the state and federal level. Thanks.

Peace,



Daniel Hirsch
President