

Ground Zero

January 2008

Volume 13 Issue 1

Seize This Moment for a Nuclear-Free World!

By Alice Slater

In early December, 2007, a National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) report entitled "Iran: Nuclear Intentions and Capabilities" acknowledged what most people already knew: that Iran does not have an active nuclear weapons program. Alice Slater, the New York Director of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, wrote the following editorial in response.

The welcome news that US intelligence agencies have disavowed earlier reports that Iran was hell-bent on making nuclear weapons has given the world a breather. Rational people can now more easily fortify the case against the Bush Administration's plans to unilaterally and preemptively attack Iran's civilian nuclear facilities. It would be sheer folly to start yet another unauthorized war. Nevertheless, technology used to produce "peaceful" nuclear energy, an "inalienable right" guaranteed by the Non-Proliferation Treaty to its members, also gives countries the technology they need to manufacture nuclear bombs, as we've seen with North Korea, Pakistan, India, and Israel; as well as other nations who started down that path but gave it up like South Africa, Argentina, and Libya.

During this blessed respite from war against a potential nuclear state, let's not squander our opportunity for greater security. All nations should be brought to the table to negotiate a treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons. Let us follow the lead of Henry Kissinger, George Schultz, Sam Nunn, and William Perry, former cold warriors, who called this year for such a commitment, understanding that the longer we delay, the more dangerous it will be as other countries emulate our nuclear prowess. The US must honor its own agreement under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), put a halt to the development of new nuclear

weapons, and take up Russian President Vladimir Putin's offer of several years ago to cut our mutual nuclear arsenals of about 10,000 weapons to 1,000. Once the US and Russia get down to reasonable numbers approaching the arsenals of the other nuclear weapons states – China, UK, France and Israel, who



"Mr. Cheney, we are not your enemy." Girls in Iran pose for a picture taken by a member of a US delegation. Photo by Le Anne Clausen, a delegate to Iran with the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

have stockpiles in the hundreds, and India, Pakistan, and North Korea, who have less than one hundred bombs in their arsenals – then we can take up China's offer to negotiate a treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons and call all the nuclear weapons states to the table.

Civil society has already produced a Model Nuclear

Seize this moment!... continued on page 5

PEACE MAKES \$ENSE

Taxpayers in Washington paid

\$10.4 BILLION

for the the Iraq War through 2007.
For the same amount of money, the
following could have been provided:

1,557,941 People with **Health Care**

179,344 Elementary School **Teachers**

1,148,513 **Head Start** Places for Children

3,960,925 Children with **Health Care**

57,210 Affordable **Housing** Units

1,091 New Elementary **Schools**

1,845,786 **Scholarships** for University Students

179,889 Music and Arts **Teachers**

9,224,386 Homes with **Renewable Electricity** or...

Source: National Priorities Project, www.nationalpriorities.org

Navy Skirts Environmental Law at Indian Island

By Glen Milner

The Navy does not want you to know how its massive weapons depot off the shores of Port Townsend and Port Hadlock threatens your safety and harms your environment.

With the closure of bases in California during the past 10 years, Naval Magazine Indian Island has become the military's most strategically important weapons station on the West Coast, handling bombs, bullets, missiles, mines, and torpedoes.

An Environmental Impact Statement for the entire base, however, has never been conducted. The cumulative effects of numerous added activities at Indian Island have never been publicly addressed.

Island's storage of military weapons could aid potential terrorists if publicly discussed. As a result, the public has absolutely no say over the level of risk it is exposed to from the base.

The purpose of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to provide full and fair discussion of significant environmental harms likely to be inflicted by government activities. An EIS informs decision makers and the public of reasonable alternatives which would avoid or minimize environmental problems. At Indian Island, where an accidental explosion or enemy attack could devastate the surrounding area, the threat is especially frightening.

Instead of conducting an EIS for Indian Island, Navy Region Northwest has announced a series of controlled

“public outreach” sessions in the Port Townsend area. Citizens, however, will not be able to present their concerns to the general public in the meetings. Representatives for the Navy will disclose information as they choose. The meetings do

not satisfy any legal or planning purpose.

The Navy owes citizens more than “public outreach.” A FOIA lawsuit was necessary just to get basic, outdated records about the safety risks associated with explosives storage at Indian Island. Although I requested the records in 2003, I did not get most records until 2007.

My question remains, what



Accountable to no one? The Navy Seabee Amphibious Construction Battalion One moves vehicles to a pier at Indian Island, during a training exercise in 2005. a . Photo courtesy of the US Navy.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) were enacted with the expressed purpose of public disclosure. Both laws are based upon the principle that an informed citizenry is essential for a democratic society.

Navy Region Northwest and Naval Magazine Indian Island have avoided accountability by claiming that the extreme dangers posed by Indian

Ground Zero Arrest Totals

274 arrested at Bangor since 1997:

August 1997:	2
August 1998:	22
August 1999:	4
January 2000:	5
August 2000:	8
January 2001:	20
May 2001:	17
August 2001:	19
January 2002:	7
May 2002:	10
August 2002:	7
January 2003:	5
May 2003:	7
August 2003:	9
January 2004:	12
May 2004:	14
August 2004:	13
January 2005:	11
May 2005:	11
August 2005:	19
May 2006:	13
August 2006:	10
January 2007:	12
May 2007:	3
August 2007:	14

*10 years.
274 arrests.
25 civil resistance actions.
4 trials.*

would be the effects of an accident at Indian Island on surrounding areas?

A 1997 document shows that at the ammunition pier at Indian Island, the Navy may handle the explosives equivalent of up to 3 million pounds of TNT at any given time. But don't ask how far the destruction would spread if something goes wrong. The Navy will not tell you, even though the information is not classified as a national secu-

Navy Skirts Law... continued on page 6

Coast Guard Sticks To Its Story

Glen Milner Still Guilty!

By Glen Milner

Since 2000, the Peace Fleet has held demonstrations during the U.S. Navy fleet arrival at Seafair, with usually three or four boats in Elliott Bay displaying banners against the glorification of weapons of war in Seattle. As a result of the demonstration in 2004, Glen Milner was drawn into a lengthy legal process where he was charged and tried by the U.S. Coast Guard. What follows is the final decision by a Coast Guard appellate judge.

Kantor, the Coast Guard appellate judge, released a 14-page decision on October 3, 2007 stating that the guilty verdict I had received from the Hearing Officer was “appropriate and will not be disturbed.”

The most notable legal ruling by Mr. Kantor stated I had been given “full and fair notice” of my alleged violations, even though at the end of my three-year case, no one with the Coast Guard could describe the specifics of the charges against me. Hearing Officer McClelland had ruled that I was guilty of one naval vessel protection zone violation, even while admitting she did not know which Navy vessel I had allegedly violated, where the violation had occurred, or the time of the alleged violation.

Mr. Kantor, the appellate judge, ruled that I had enough information concerning the alleged violation to defend myself.

Mr. Kantor also ruled against me regarding Coast Guard administrative law, where disproving any of the charges in my case would have mandated a new trial for the entire case.

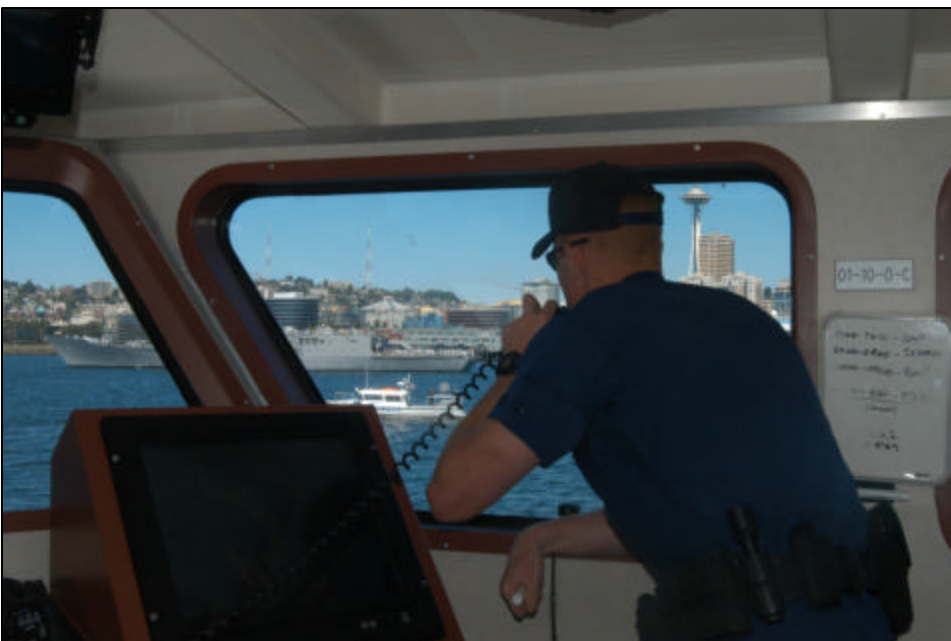
In written and verbal testimony, the Coast Guard repeatedly stated I had violated the naval vessel protection zone on four occasions and had twice come within 100 yards of the 844-foot warship, the USS Bonhomme Richard. In 2006, three of the four alleged security zone violations presented by the Coast Guard had been disproved.

Mr. Kantor, however, was able to avoid sending the case back to Coast Guard District Thirteen in Seattle by revising the charge in his appellate ruling. Mr. Kantor, against all claims by the Coast Guard, determined I was charged with only one security zone violation.

In addition, Mr. Kantor was not willing to discuss how two Coast Guard personnel had committed perjury in their statements. One was Lieutenant James D. Stoffer, the Coast Guard’s lead witness in the case and the officer in charge of the Navy fleet arrival in Seattle on August 5, 2004. Lt. Stoffer provided three pages of written testimony and over two hours of detailed oral testimony at the Coast Guard hearing in Seattle on December 13, 2005.

Lt. Stoffer stated that on a clear, sunny afternoon, he

Coast Guard... continued on page 5



But how good is his “seaman's eye?” During the 2007 “Fleet Week,” Officer Eric R. Gagnon, patrol commander aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Sea Lion, watches the waters for any fast-moving Peace Fleet boats... real or imagined. Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Kelly Parker.

In 2006, Hearing Officer Lane McClelland, of the Coast Guard Hearing Office in Arlington, Virginia, found me guilty of navigating within 500 yards of a US Navy vessel at the Seattle Seafair festival in August 2004. (Federal naval vessel protection zone regulations are intended to keep vessels 100 yards from US Navy vessels to prevent a terrorist attack on a US naval vessel, like what happened to the USS COLE in Aden, Yemen on October 12, 2000. The Coast Guard at Seafair, however, improperly enforces the law as though it were a 500-yard exclusionary zone.) No fine was levied against me.

In fall 2007, I received a response to my administrative appeal to the Commandant of the Coast Guard regarding the alleged naval vessel protection zone violation. Mr. David

Seize This Moment!... continued from page 1

Weapons Convention, introduced into the UN General Assembly by Costa Rica as a discussion document. It lays out all the steps for dismantlement, verification, guarding, and monitoring the disassembled arsenals to insure that we will all be secure from break-out. We must also take up Russia and China's proposal, offered every year for the past four years in the UN, to ban all weapons in space. That is a pre-condition for Russia and China's agreement to abolish nuclear weapons as they do not want to be dominated from space by the US. And we'll also have to include a Missile Ban Treaty and forego provocative US actions of planting missiles in Poland and the Czech Republic, rattling our sabers at Russia, or in the Asian-Pacific region, starting an arms race with China.

Finally, we must supersede the NPT's guarantee to so-called "peaceful" nuclear technology, upon which Iran is now lawfully relying, by establishing an International Sustainable Energy Agency as we phase out nuclear power. To think we

can control the nuclear fuel cycle, saying Brazil and Japan can enrich nuclear fuel, but not Iran, would create a new system of nuclear apartheid, doomed to fail. Ending the nuclear age would take off the table any plans to go to war against countries with nuclear facilities with which we disagree. It's totally naive to think that anything less than the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and their evil twins — nuclear reactors — would actually work. Let us not condemn our planet to a state of perpetual war—with unimaginable catastrophes. Giving peace a chance by negotiating an end to the nuclear age is the only practical way out of our terrifying dilemma. Let us seize the opportunity of this brief pause on the path to war and move with hope into a nuclear-free 21st Century.

Alice Slater lives in the New York Director of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, on the web at www.wagingpeace.org.

Coast Guard... continued from page 4

had escorted the USS Bonhomme Richard into Elliott Bay. Lt. Stoffer stated that while his Coast Guard cutter, the USCGC Cuttyhunk, was 200 to 300 yards away from the warship, I passed between them on two separate occasions in an 11-foot inflatable, owned by the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action. Lt. Stoffer stated I had twice come within 100 yards of the USS Bonhomme Richard and described in detail how he had carefully verified this distance with his cutter's radar systems and with his seaman's eye.

New evidence discovered after the December 2005 hearing radically changed the case.

In the first six months of 2006, I found 198 photos on the Internet of the Navy fleet arrival that day, taken by six independent photographers. In May 2006, I received GPS records for the USS Bonhomme Richard from the Navy through the Freedom of Information Act. The two pieces of information proved that the USCGC Cuttyhunk had not traveled into Elliott Bay with Navy vessels and that at the time of the alleged violations, the Cuttyhunk was well over a mile away from the USS Bonhomme Richard.

Lt. Stoffer had fabricated the entire incident, but neither the Coast Guard's Hearing Officer nor the appellate judge would rule against him.

The entire Coast Guard case was based only upon testimony of Lt. Stoffer and subordinate Coast Guard personnel. All available evidence, vessel voice recordings, and GPS records for vessels in Elliott Bay had been destroyed by the

"Lt. Stoffer had fabricated the entire incident, but neither the Coast Guard's Hearing Officer nor the appellate judge would rule against him."

Coast Guard. The cutter navigation chart for the Cuttyhunk, listed as part of my case file, was "lost." None of this mattered to the Coast Guard Hearing Officer or the appellate judge.

Even without actual evidence, the Coast Guard had considered criminal charges against me with a possible sentence of six years in jail and a \$250,000 fine. Coast Guard District Thirteen instead attempted to fine me \$32,500 through the Coast Guard's own administrative law program, the Coast Guard Hearing Office.

On August 7, 2004, the Commandant's U.S. Coast Guard Operational Summary listed the Coast Guard's handling of the Ground Zero 11-foot inflatable and my alleged naval vessel protection zone violation in Elliott Bay ahead of all other Homeland Security operations for the day.

A statement on the next page caught my eye.

A column for the Commandant's Operational Summary, *On This Day in Coast Guard History*, mentioned an alleged rum-runner who was apprehended on August 7, 1929. The rum-runner, Horace Alderman, had reportedly killed two Coast Guardsmen and a Secret Service agent. The Coast Guard had captured him, later charged him, tried him, and hung Mr. Alderman at the Coast Guard station at Bahia Mar, Florida.

I could not help but wonder if the Coast Guard is longing for those days of yesteryear—an all-encompassing legal program, with law enforcement, trial and execution, all conducted by the Coast Guard.

I also wonder whether Horace Alderman actually committed the crimes as charged by the Coast Guard. Without a fair trial, it is hard to know.

Glen Milner lives in Seattle and organizes the annual Peace Fleet actions each August.

Second Annual Gathering of Pacific Life Community

By Dennis Apel

The Pacific Life Community will meet February 29 through March 2, 2008, for its second annual gathering since its reanimation last year in Nevada. Jesuit activist and author John Deere will be joining the group, and a non-violent direct action at Vandenberg Air Force Base will likely be part of the week-end.

The meeting will be housed in the Casa de Maria Retreat Center in Montecino, near Santa Barbara, California. It will begin with dinner on Friday and run through Sunday afternoon. The cost of the facility, lodging, and meals is expected to be covered by gracious donors, so that the participants' total expenses will be only the cost of transportation to and from the event.

A planning meeting to hammer out the specifics of the agenda and the action will take place on Saturday, January 19, at the Catholic Worker House in Los Angeles. PLC is looking for a representative from each of the regions to be in attendance. If you can attend either the planning meeting in Los Angeles or the gathering in Santa Barbara, please contact Dennis Apel at (805) 343-6322 or jda-apel@yahoo.com as soon as possible.

Dennis Apel operates a free medical clinic out of his home in Guadalupe, CA.

Mark Your Calendar With These Upcoming Events

By Sister Jackie Hudson, OP

Here are some upcoming events of interest to the Ground Zero community:

Friday, January 11 – “Friday Night at the Meaningful Movies” will show the film, “Conviction” followed by a discussion with Jackie Hudson. Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl N, Seattle 7:00pm- 9:30 pm.

Saturday, January 12, 7 pm, at Queen Anne Manor, 100 Crockett Street, Queen Anne behind Safeway, Seattle; Queen Anne Movie Guild Presents: “Arid Lands,” a documentary feature about the land and the people in southeastern Washington state. Sixty years ago, the Hanford nuclear site produced plutonium for the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, and today the area is the focus of the largest environmental clean-up in history. Admission is always free of charge, though cash donations are kindly accepted. For more information see <http://www.queenannemovieguild.org>.

Tuesday, January 22, and subsequent 4th Tuesdays, 7 pm, Lake Forest Park Towne Centre, 17171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Park, upstairs across from Third Place Books, in the corner of the food court near the Glass Meeting Room; The Wallingford Neighbors for Peace and Justice Working Group on nuclear weapons abolition will work with the Ground Zero North End Affinity Group. See the Ground Zero website for more information: <http://www.gzcenter.org>.

January 25, 2008 - Frozen River Film Festival in Winona, MN will include "Conviction" with a Discussion following with Jackie Hudson and her two co-defendants. Check website for time: www.frff.org.

February 10, 2008 - Brian Watson will speak at both services of the Saltwater Unitarian Universalist Church, located at 25701 14th Pl South, Des Moines, WA. A question and answer time will follow the 11:00am service.

Sister Jackie Hudson, OP lives in Bremerton and serves as an at large member of the Ground Zero Stewardship Council.

Navy Skirts Law... continued from page 3

rity secret.

There is no Navy plan for notifying the public in the event of a catastrophic accident at Indian Island. If an ammunition ship is on fire at the ammunition pier, the vessel will be moved into Port Townsend Bay, to a scuttling site, and sunk. The exact location is secret, but it would have to be closer to nearby homes.

Navy Region Northwest claims that it works closely with Jefferson County Emergency Management and that the two agencies will work together in the event of an emergency.

In November 2003, however, while handling a Trident missile at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, Navy personnel punctured the nose cone of a missile containing up to eight nuclear warheads. According to former Navy officer Walter Fitzpatrick, who leaked the story to the media four months later, the White House was immediately notified of the nuclear accident.

The Navy, however, failed to notify Kitsap County Emergency Management. Phyllis Mann, who as director of Kitsap County's Emergency Management works with the Navy and monitors Navy incidents, first heard about the accident in March 2004 when a reporter called to ask about it.

There are many other issues that need to be addressed. Why does the Navy continue to use a special Department of Transportation shipping exemption that allows the shipment of radioactive depleted uranium munitions without a “radioactive” placard? Why is the Navy now expanding safety zones around the ammunition pier?

Using the FOIA, I found it took over seven minutes for the fire department to respond to a fire alarm on the ammunition wharf. I also learned that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has no response plans or knowledge of hazards involving Navy facilities at Indian Island.

Public outreach sessions are a good start. The Navy should now prove that it is serious about full public disclosure of hazardous activities at Indian Island.

Glen Milner lives in Seattle and serves as the Media and Outreach Coordinator for Ground Zero. This article first appeared in the Peninsula Daily News on November 30, 2007.

POSTCARDS, FILMS, T-SHIRTS, and BUMPERSTICKERS

"CONVICTION" a documentary about three Dominican nuns, including Ground Zero organizer Jackie Hudson, sentenced to Federal Prison for their nonviolent protest at a Minuteman III missile site in Northern



Colorado. This 48-minute film evokes important conversations about the role of religion in politics, the role of nuclear weapons in national defense and the role of International Law in the Federal Courts. DVD. Item # F-1 \$25 for personal use \$40 for public performance showings

"WALKING FOR PEACE" This 29-minute film documents the spiritual and physical journey of a group of people who walked 300 miles, from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation to Bangor Submarine Base, to call for the abolition of nuclear weapons. DVD. Item # F-2 \$10



Sunflower Bumpersticker

5.5 inches diameter. Gorgeous! Brilliant full-color sunflower and yellow text on bright blue background. The sunflower is the international symbol for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Item # S-2 \$1.00 ea. 1-10 \$0.75 ea. 11-100 \$0.50 ea. 101+



WE FOUND THEM!

Weapons of Mass Destruction...they're closer to home than you think! Map shows dozens of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons sites across the US, with a full list on the back.



Sage green shirt. Item # SH-1 S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL \$16 each or 2 for \$30

NEW T-SHIRT DESIGN!

"War No More" with Peace Dove and Globe White, yellow, blue and green design on black shirt. Ground Zero logo on sleeve.

Item # SH-2 Adult sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL Children's sizes S, M, L, XL \$16 each or 2 for \$30



BUMPERSTICKER 3x12" White and red on blue. Item # S-1 \$1.00 ea. 1-10 \$0.50 ea. 11-100 \$0.25 ea. 101+



Sunflower Postcard 4x6" Item # PC-1 \$4.00 for pack of 10



We All Can Live Postcard 4x6" Item # PC-2 \$4.00 for pack of 10

Item #	Quantity	Size for shirts	Description	Price Each	TOTAL
Shipping: please add \$3.50 per shirt or film and/or \$1.50 per 10 bumper stickers or postcards				SHIPPING =	
We request <u>US funds</u> from all our supporters. <i>This helps save bank charges.</i>				TOTAL =	

____ Enclosed is my contribution to Ground Zero: \$ _____ (Please check one or more) For the: General Fund ____

Ground Zero Building Fund ____ Ground Zero Legal Defense Fund ____ Peace Quilt Raffle (tickets \$5 each) ____

____ Please call me; I want to start leafleting at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard ____ or downtown Seattle ____.

____ Please contact me about having a Ground Zero speaker come to speak to my group, church, school or union.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____

State/Prov: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ E-mail: _____

Mail orders and donations in US funds to Ground Zero at 16159 Clear Creek Rd. NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Phone: (360) 377-2586 Email: info@gzcenter.org Website: www.gzcenter.org

Declassified Nuke Test Videos Now Available Online

By Mike McCormick

In 1997, I purchased what were then the only known, publicly available collection of declassified US Nuclear Test Films. At the time I'd assumed that other video copies of the films would be released on a yearly basis, eventually culminating in hundreds more of the thousands that were shot over the years. Quite the opposite turned out to be true.



Today few people here in this country realize that the United States government conducted over 1,000 nuclear "tests" beginning at the end of World War II. These "tests," primarily conducted in Nevada and the South Pacific, exposed millions of US citizens, and millions more innocent people worldwide, to varying levels of a wide variety of radioactive fallout. It is without a doubt that this "testing" brought about untold levels of cancer and slow painful deaths.

The 73 videos in this collection represent the tip of the iceberg of the visual record of this vast US experiment. Full

release of all film records is long overdue. Citizens should demand that lawmakers immediately open the archives and make all remaining films available to the public.

Until then, I've been posting some of the video that I air on my public access show, Talking Stick TV (www.talkingsticktv.org) and on YouTube (www.youtube.com/talkingsticktv). I've also started a new website with all of the videos, called www.nuketestfilms.com

Mike McCormick is a participant in the annual Peace Fleet actions, and is the producer of Talking Stick TV, a weekly show on the SCAN public access cable station in Seattle.

Come out on January 19!

See the enclosed flyer for full details about the Ground Zero Martin Luther King, Jr. Day action on Saturday, Jan. 19.



GROUND ZERO

**GROUND ZERO CENTER
FOR NONVIOLENT ACTION**
16159 Clear Creek Road NW
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Phone: 360-297-2890
Website: www.gzcenter.org
E-mail: info@gzcenter.org

Address Service Requested

“Like cannibalism and slavery, nuclear weapons can be demolished. The question is whether we humans have the will and the courage to choose life.”

— Joseph Gerson

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