

# Benjamin Spock, M.D.

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JUL 1985

Dear Friend:

On March 23, 1983, in his now famous "Star Wars" speech to the nation, President Reagan offered a glimpse of a terrifying Twilight Zone future he has in mind for you, your family and loved ones.

The President wants to launch thousands, yes thousands, of "orbiting battle stations" into outer space, each armed with deadly laser-beam weapons designed to shoot down enemy missiles...even though to do so will violate existing arms control treaties, make future treaties impossible, and provoke the largest nuclear arms escalation in history.

The President wants Americans to believe that these space weapons will "shelter" the entire population of the United States from nuclear attack...despite the fact that the government's own scientific studies show that unless these weapons are 95% effective (an inconceivably high level of performance), a minimum of 100 million Americans will die instantly in a blazing firestorm in the event of all-out nuclear war.

The President says he is absolutely convinced that "Star Wars" will work...despite the fact that hundreds of today's most brilliant scientists have condemned proposals for a space-based weapons system as "illusions," "fantasies," and "totally science fiction."

Most astonishingly of all, the President -- whose massive federal budget cuts have pushed millions of Americans into poverty and left millions more in helpless despair -- is recklessly prepared to spend more than one trillion dollars on "Star Wars," the equivalent of \$1 million a day for the next 2,730 years...even though this boon to military contractors will push the National Debt so astronomically high that the United States would self-destruct economically long before "Star Wars" ever gets off the ground.

I am writing to tell you that we cannot -- we must not -- let this happen. Our very survival depends on it.

President Reagan has already declared "Star Wars" so vital to our "security" that U.S. arms negotiators in Geneva have been instructed to sabotage any arms reduction agreement if the space weapons program is curtailed in any way. And because "Star Wars" is an essential part of the U.S. drive for First-Strike "superiority" over the Soviet Union -- the defensive complement of such First-Strike weapons as the MX and Pershing 2 nuclear missiles -- Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and Secretary of State George Shultz have indicated that the Administration will stop at nothing to get "Star Wars."

If you are as frightened and as outraged as I am that President Reagan has made "Star Wars" this nation's number one military priority --

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threatening our lives and our hopes for nuclear disarmament with a bankrupt scheme of false promises and Hollywood special effects -- then please join me and thousands of other concerned Americans in rejecting -- now, once and for all -- the nightmare future that President Reagan is preparing for us and our children.

Three simple but decisive steps that you can take today will make a critical difference, especially if you and hundreds of thousands of other men and women who are receiving this letter act quickly.

First, I ask you to read and sign the enclosed EMERGENCY ORDER TO THE PRESIDENT TO BAN "STAR WARS" and return it to me immediately in the specially-marked envelope. This EMERGENCY ORDER is your personal demand to President Reagan, instructing him to

- \* withdraw at once his request for \$3.8 billion in "Star Wars" research for fiscal 1986 and cancel plans for \$70 billion in additional "Star Wars" spending over the next several years...
- \* permanently give up the search for space-based weapons as an element of American military policy and strategy...
- \* and seek international accords with the Soviet Union and other countries for a total ban on research, testing, and deployment of nuclear or other weapons for use in outer space.

Your EMERGENCY ORDER is urgently needed to let President Reagan know you recognize, deplore, and oppose the incalculable threat of "Star Wars" -- a threat not only to human survival, but to our nation's social and economic well-being -- which he has either overlooked or deliberately chosen to ignore.

As soon as I receive your EMERGENCY ORDER, I will personally see to it that it is placed together with thousands of others we will receive and conveyed to President Reagan at the White House in Washington, D.C.

Even the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, has expressed grave doubts about the President's plan, saying there will be "no advantage in creating a new Maginot Line of the 21st century." President Francois Mitterand of France has gone so far as to bar his country from participating in any phase of the program. But the most crucial and effective opposition to "Star Wars" can only come from Americans like you and me.

Your voice -- added to a massive outpouring of public opposition to "Star Wars" -- is especially important at this time. The arms reduction negotiations in Geneva between the United States and the Soviet Union are entering a pivotal phase in which either real progress can be made...or a new and even more unbreakable deadlock reached. The new Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, is on record as saying that if the U.S. is unwilling to "avert the transfer of the arms race into outer space, it would be unreal to hope to stop the arms race" here on earth. President Reagan, in response, has said that the U.S. will not budge an inch on "Star Wars."

By speaking together now in one loud and united voice, President Reagan will be forced to hear that Americans do not want -- and will not tolerate -- the contamination of our heavens with weapons which jeopardize chances for nuclear disarmament and threaten our extinction.

At the same time, it is imperative that we let the leaders of both nuclear superpowers know that Americans long for peace. Both nations now possess enough nuclear firepower in their arsenals to obliterate the world many times over. Both bear responsibility for the fact that not one single nuclear weapon has been dismantled in over 40 years as a consequence of the more than 6,000 negotiating sessions on disarmament which have taken place between the two countries.

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nationwide and worldwide movement to ban nuclear weapons, halt the arms race, stop foreign intervention, achieve safe energy, and meet human needs. Today, National MOBILIZATION is centrally involved in work to prevent President Reagan's "Star Wars" proposal from ever getting off the ground -- laying bare the true facts about "Star Wars" which are belied by the President's misleading claim that it will render nuclear weapons "impotent and obsolete."

In cities and towns across the country, our volunteers and staff members are working at the grassroots level to awaken Americans to the deadly connections between nuclear weapons and U.S. military moves against Nicaragua and in the Middle East, where American intervention is most likely to spark nuclear disaster.

National MOBILIZATION FOR SURVIVAL serves as an international contact to the European peace movement, supporting their ongoing efforts to remove and prevent further deployments of U.S. nuclear missiles on their soil. At the same time, we are involved in a nationwide program to increase the American people's awareness of the oppressive impact of the massive transfer of government funds from social programs to the military -- and how the \$1.9 trillion the Pentagon will spend over the next five years could completely pay off the National Debt.

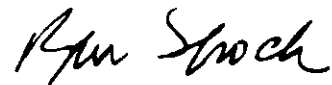
Today, more Americans than ever before are frightened about nuclear war. They are angry and confused about arms talks which go nowhere, Presidential assurances that nuclear war can be survived, and profits by military contractors so obscenely high that even the sky is no longer the limit. People are flooding our phone lines and jamming our mailboxes asking how they can help make our world a safer place for ourselves and our children. Your assistance today is the single most important factor in enabling us to reach out to them.

So, please, when you return your EMERGENCY ORDER and your BILATERAL APPEAL, remember to enclose your check for \$50, \$25, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,500, or as much as you can, to National MOBILIZATION FOR SURVIVAL. Your contribution is tax-deductible when made out as shown on the ORDER.

I urge you not to put this letter aside, but to do as much as you can today -- through your ORDER, your APPEAL, and your check -- to help prevent nuclear war. Your action can have a positive impact on the Geneva arms negotiations and on key votes in Congress.

We want our children to live -- it's The Bomb that has to go! For human survival, it's now...or never.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Spock, M.D.

P.S. Along with your check, won't you please take a moment to fill out and return the enclosed SURVIVAL QUESTIONNAIRE? Your views are important to help us identify and address the concerns Americans have about the danger of nuclear war.



**national mobilization  
FOR SURVIVAL**

**SURVIVAL EDUCATION FUND**

P.O. Box 871 • Cooper Station • New York, N.Y. 10003

I am convinced that, even as we appeal to President Reagan not to provoke nuclear suicide through his frenzied pursuit of "Star Wars," we must also call equally upon the President and Chairman Gorbachev, the Soviet leader -- the two persons in the world today with the most power to stop nuclear holocaust from ever taking place. We must urge both leaders to have the wisdom -- and the courage -- to say "No!" to nuclear weapons...or we will surely face annihilation.

That is why I ask you to join me in taking a second decisive step today to help prevent nuclear war, by making an unprecedented BILATERAL APPEAL for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament to the leaders of the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.

Please note that the BILATERAL APPEAL I have enclosed for you contains two identical messages which express your deep concern about the fact that both nations continue to produce weapons of murderous destructive power...continue to make nuclear war more likely through frightening new technologies and escalating international tensions...continue a "business as usual" approach to arms negotiations which virtually assures that nuclear terror will never end.

I believe it's up to you and me -- and every other potential victim of nuclear war -- to speak out now. Our united voices must be heard the day before nuclear war becomes inevitable. The day after will be too late.

For example, if less than 1% of the superpowers' nuclear arsenals ever explodes, even by accident, scientific studies -- now endorsed by the Pentagon itself -- show that our entire planet will be plunged into a pitch dark "nuclear winter," with temperatures remaining 10 to 40 degrees below zero for months. All animal and planet life will die. Water will be poisoned by radioactivity. The ozone layer which shields the earth from deadly ultraviolet rays will be destroyed, killing our bodies' ability to fight disease. Worldwide plagues will inflict unendurable agony. Any man, woman, or child who does not stay permanently indoors will go blind. Life on earth, which has taken more than four billion years to evolve, will be snuffed out in an instant.

A permanent ban on the construction, testing, stockpiling, deployment, use or threatened use of nuclear weapons is essential if we and our world are to survive.

That's what makes it so urgent and important for you to sign and return both parts of our BILATERAL APPEAL for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament as soon as you can. We are hoping to deliver as many signed APPEALS as possible -- tens upon tens of thousands -- within the next two to three weeks. Our goal is to put maximum pressure on both nations to place serious new proposals on the negotiating table in Geneva to reduce and ultimately eliminate nuclear weapons from the face of the earth. These negotiations could be stalled for years by the Reagan Administration's insistence that research and development for "Star Wars" must proceed -- which makes it critical for the President to receive your EMERGENCY ORDER TO BAN "STAR WARS" in addition to your BILATERAL APPEAL as soon as possible.

So, please, take a moment now to send your signed EMERGENCY ORDER and BILATERAL APPEAL to National MOBILIZATION FOR SURVIVAL today.

Then take your third effective step to ensure that you, your friends and loved ones will never endure the horror of nuclear war: enclose as generous a contribution as you can to National MOBILIZATION FOR SURVIVAL along with your EMERGENCY ORDER and BILATERAL APPEAL. National MOBILIZATION needs your help for our demonstration, education, and action programs to alert more Americans to the danger of "Star Wars" and other insidious forms of escalation masquerading as paths to peace. We are the people who helped bring more than one million Americans together in New York City in June 1982 to march against nuclear weapons and for meeting human needs -- the single largest rally for any cause ever held in the United States and a major display of the strength and breadth of the anti-nuclear movement.

Since that time, National MOBILIZATION has expanded its vital leadership role in the

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