Read

AMERICAN PEACE TEST

May 31, 1986

~~This testing site is where all U. S. nuclear tests have been held since 1974. Since 1963, the United States has detonated 425 explosions— 225 of which vented radioactive fallouts here and in other locales.~~

We who are gathered here have taken many paths, but our diverse paths have converged today. My path led me to help organize the Peace Tent in Nairobi last July, and I have been asked to tell you about it. The aim of the Peace Tent was to bring women's peacemaking will and consciousness to the world which so desperately needs it. It was the international feminist alternative to men's conflict and war. It was a place where women whose countries were locked in conflict met and communicated to expose the patriarchial barriers to peace.

Whatever else one may learn from the experience of the Peace Tent, it forced us to recognize the toll already taken by preparation for World War III. To listen to the women of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to hear the women of the South Pacific testing areas, to hear the women of Western Europe where the cruise and Pershings are, and to hear the women from all the other areas where our nuclear infrastructure is placed, was to recognize

Policies sometimes backed up with the threat of The Bomb

our global pretentions. Victims of our interventionist policies in the Third World were there as well.

How did we get in such a mess? It is a story of secrecy; it is the story of a breakdown of democratic decision-making; it's the story of an ignorant public and, I might add, a public kept that way. It's a story of the commitment of resources to a foreign policy and a world view that is based on military superiority. It is we, the public, in this equation who must retrieve our system.

And as we chip away at the secrecy, we dare to intrude into the world of nuclear theologians. And we say to those experts: "Your great, grey world of abstraction will not prevent us from being drenched in radiation. Rather, our belief is that decisions about the testing, deployment, and use of nuclear devices are not solely military decisions to be settled in the closed councils of policy makers, but they are public moral questions requiring an informed debate so that responsible decisions can be made by women and men who represent the needs of the entire human community." Your high tech jargon conceal crimes Against humanity - survivability of Mention

neutron bomb The commitment to a world view based on military superiority has caused the U. S. to be overtaken by what Jerome Wisner calls the social cancer of runaway militarism. The tacit acceptance of the metastisizing of this malignancy is, I think, our greatest danger. It is imperative that we

bring into public discourse that power based on money, organization, and discipline spreading from the Pentagon with its vast propaganda machine to the defense contractors, to institutions, and to communities. These same contractors are not only a major source of the campaign funding of candidates, but they even supply the walking-around money for some of our public officials. And, of course, all of this is wrapped in our major icon, the flag. There is a proper place for the military in a democracy; but it is not where it is today. No longer is there any pretense that the constitutional principal exists that the military be under strong civilian control. When was the last time an American official spoke of civilian control of the military? Rather, it is the military and its apologists who are throughout the government. I raise this urgent issue. As a feminist, I have no manhood to be called into question. Neither gold braid nor the sleekness of the latest missle dazzles me. Rather, for me, militarism is the use of military power against common sense. * POLICY OF MASSIVE GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION TO SUBSIDIZE THE hightech INDUSTRY THROUGH A STATE GUARANTEED MARKET for armaments

We come together to rededicate ourselves to this formidable undertaking to raise this urgent issue of militarism:

1. To reach out to our fellow neighbors Americans, for (as Weisner says) only an aroused electorate give us any hope of staving off the pending horror. Denial, complacency, fantasy

2. To inform our public officials, as well as the handful of men that control our national security bureaucracy, that many of us were slow to learn. Somehow, we felt by your very position that you had insight which we lacked. We have at long last cast aside our traditions of timidity. Neither your indifference, your arrogance, nor your ridicule will deflect our determination to retrieve our government and to expose you to public scrutiny and control.

3. In the words of Anthony Lewis, "we cannot undo technology or close our scientists' minds. Bue we can be more modest in our pretensions. We can stop playing God. We can stop placing blind faith in technology that is not infallible and can never be. We can remember both the preciousness of humanity and its imperfections."