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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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[REDACTED] letter (in English) dated 30 May 1958 from the Committee of Youth Organizations of the USSR, appealing to youth groups of the world to initiate proposals or put forth any other effort which will help persuade the United States and Great Britain to support the initiative of the Soviet Union to settle the question of ending experimental A and H bomb tests.

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КОМИТЕТ МОЛОДЕЖНЫХ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЙ СССР

Москва, ул. Кропоткина, 10.

Телефон Г 6-33-83, Г 6-84-02



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Dear friends,

We are living in an age when man's most daring dreams and plans are translated into reality, when distances are cut and continents are spanned in the space of hours, when the Moon is no longer the Earth's only satellite and when scientists are searching for means to wrest from the grip of death its victims. The labour and brain of man have opened up splendid prospects for the prosperity of humanity, have become the source of colossal progress in all spheres of society's life. At the same time these achievements of science and technology, if used for war purposes, will bring death to millions of people.

In our age, the age of intercontinental ballistic missiles, if "push-button war" is started, no corner in the world will be able to escape the terrible disaster. That is why such alarm has been aroused by the report in the "New York Times" that not once or twice but many times planes of the U.S. Strategic Air Command took off with loads of H-bombs and headed towards Russia and the Third World War.

Are these things to be toyed with? A sanguinary and horrible shambles may break out as a result of a misunderstood order or an accident.

Much is spoken and written these days about the so-called "clean bomb," but the grief of people will hardly be any less if their kith and kin are killed by such "improved" weapons.

We hold that we must do everything in our power to prevent this from ever happening. We do not want the people to live in eternal fear for their future, the future of their children. We do not want anyone to find himself in the position of Mr. Gregg, the American Carolina farmer: such an accident can end much more tragically.

We do not want people to be a bad ridden for a long time, like the Japanese fishermen who fell ill after the atomic explosion on Bikini Atoll.

The continued nuclear weapon tests arouse the legitimate anxiety not only of the Soviet people, of our youths and girls, but also of the most diverse sections of the population, of the youth the world over.

The Committee of Youth Organizations of the U.S.S.R. is getting thousands of letters and telegrams from young people, from various youth and student organizations, expressing hope and anxiety; hope because the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. has adopted a decision on the unilateral discontinuation of A- and H- bomb tests by the Soviet Union, has made the first step toward delivering the world from the threat of devastating atomic war; anxiety because the other states possessing nuclear weapons have not joined so far in the Soviet Union's peaceful initiative. On the contrary, the governments of the United States and Great Britain have started a new series of tests of these mass-destruction weapons recently.

Studying the numerous data already collected by the U.N. Committee on the Action of Atomic Radiation, scientists have arrived at the conclusion that experimental explosions contaminate the air, water and soil with radioactive fall-out and endanger the health of all mankind. For the winds which carry in the atmosphere the death-dealing radioactive particles make no distinction as to countries or social systems.

A grave danger is hanging ever more tangibly over the world's young generation and future generations. That is why we express the deep-rooted hope that two great powers, the United States and Great Britain, will support the initiative of the Soviet Union and justify the expectations of the peoples -- will settle the question of ending the tests of these lethal weapons everywhere. We think that the American youth can do much in this respect.

Addressing your organization, we are ready to discuss any joint measures, to respond to any proposals

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which can help solve this problem of vital importance for all mankind.

We know that American young men and women, just as their Soviet co-evals, are striving for a peaceful life in a peaceful world.

The thousands of miles, oceans and continents, traditions and convictions separating us must not be an obstacle to concord and confidence between us, just as they have not prevented Muscovites from sincerely falling in love with your magnificent Van Cliburn and New Yorkers from heartily applauding the Russian dancers. We believe that people of good will, in whatever country they live, can always find a common language.

We believe in you, in your sincerity, in your heart, in your reason, in your fervent striving for peace.

That is why we call on you to apply all your efforts and energies so that the ominous mushroom-cloud of an atomic explosion should never and nowhere appear on the horizon any more, so that people of all continents be freed from the oppressive horror of a devastating war which threatens mankind.

Committee of Youth Organizations
of the U.S.S.R.