

## BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI AND THE BLACKOUT '77 OF NEW YORK

32 years ago this day, the United States government dropped an atomic (uranium) bomb on Hiroshima -- and 3 days later, another one, a plutonium bomb this time, on Nagasaki, the first and only government in the world to use this devastating weapon on human beings.

Of course those two cities were totally destroyed -- but worst of all, an estimated (Japanese figures) 280,000 Japanese children, women and men were literally disintegrated by the massive doses of radiation (skins peeled off like gloves, their bodies vaporized so that only shadow remained on the pavements). Similar thousands lingered on in agony -- with gaping liquid-filled holes for eye-sockets after staring at the blast, hair and skin falling off at the slightest touch, crippled, disfigured, and bearing deformed offsprings.

And now, President Carter is advocating, and the Senate has approved, funding for the development of the neutron bomb -- a nuclear warhead which spares buildings and structures but kills off human beings after weeks of unbearable agony!

The cost to us: \$10-\$20 million each -- but budget cuts for our children's education, health, housing, employment, welfare, improvement of our cities, etc.

In addition, U.S. foreign policy involves the employment of nuclear armed airplanes that fly 24 hours around the globe, and nuclear weapons in Korea, the Philippines, and on the high seas.

And just yesterday, the nuclear plant owned by Con Edison at Indian Point, just 35 miles from N.Y.C., barely escaped being blown sky-high, when lightning purportedly struck the Con Ed electrical power plant near by. This time we were lucky. But the next time?

And what about the atomic reactor at Columbia University, right in the heart of the city?

WHY ALL THE FUSS ABOUT NUCLEAR PLANTS AND REACTORS? Here are just a few mind-blowing facts:

- -- a particle of plutonium the size of a grain of pollen causes lung cancer if inhaled -- and a typical nuclear power plant produces several hundred pounds of plutonium each year;\*
- -- it takes plutonium half a million years to lose its killing power\*

- -- so your children, their children, their children's children, so on and on, will be affected by the smallest leakage or accident involving such a plant or reactor;
- -- between 400-500 such plants are planned by the year 2000 (only 23 years away)!

Not only that, but <u>radioactive nuclear wastes</u> created when nuclear fuel is removed by reactors, contain, among other deadly poisons, strontium 90, cesium 137, and plutonium 239 -- the most toxic and long-lived substances known to mankind. And by the end of this century, it is estimated that <u>one billion cubic feet of nuclear waste</u> from these reactors will be dumped somewhere -- enough to cover a 4-lane highway coast to coast a foot deep!\*

BUT WHAT HAS ALL THIS GOT TO DO WITH THE BLACKOUT OF 1977 (and '65)? The point of it all is that nuclear power is in the hands of private industries such as Con Edison -- who criminally and inexcusably subjected 9 million of us to the unnecessary hardships, the assault to our life and limbs, of a BLACKOUT, because they were more concerned with large profits for their stockholders than spending the extra cost in time and money to assure the safety and welfare of their clients - us - who are paying exhorbitant rates for this disservice!

When President Carter and the senators -- supposedly representing the welfare of their constituents -- advocate the development of nuclear power, it is obvious where their interests are -- not with us who will be the losers, but with the bankers, industrial monopolies, the Pentagon, the elite .01% ruling class who are the profiteers. So the politicians and Big Business work hand-in-glove. And if we carefully study the history of our nation, we will find that this collusive relationship between government and monopoly interests has always existed -- at the expense of us, the vast majority of people. Because that is the nature of capitalism.

THAT IS WHY WE SAY: NO NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, NO NUCLEAR ENERGY IN A SOCIETY CONTROLLED BY BIG BUSINESS INTERESTS. The capitalist system is for, by, and of capitalists. We will continue to have blackouts, nuclear fallout, the horrible dangers from nuclear waste and plants until basic changes are made -- when our country belongs to us and is controlled by us, for the benefit of us majority working people.

Until such a time when we can be assured of safety from nuclear disaster, we must <u>act now</u> to stop the use and proliferation of nuclear power. Let the President, the senators and representatives of your districts know about your opposition to neutron bombs and any other devices involving nuclear power. Most of all, talk to your neighbors and friends about your convictions: NO NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, NO NUCLEAR ENERGY!



PAPER CRANE -- symbol of longevity in Japan (according to a favorite children's myth, turtles and tortoises live for 10,000 years, and cranes for 1,000 years!)

So Sadako Sasaki, 9-year-old victim of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1946, hoped to fold 1,000 paper cranes as she lay pain-wracked in bed -- but died before reaching her goal.

Now school children throughout Japan fold 1,000 paper cranes at a time in her memory and send them to the Sadako Memorial in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, where hundreds of thousands of them blow colorfully in the wind as reminders of the terrible nuclear holocaust.