

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP  
Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
1<sup>st</sup> July 2017

Dear Prime Minister

Thank you for your response to my recent letter, which was received via Ian McConville, Acting Assistant Secretary of Arms Control and Counter-Proliferation Branch. With all due respect the answer is quite shocking. Whilst it is understandable that there are delicate procedures and considerations involved taking steps to ban nuclear bombs is easy. If the government is serious it shows its commitment to such a ban and ratifies the current UN treaty thereby demonstrating that it is taking steps to ban nuclear weapons in every way possible. Also a stop is made to mining Uranium and a concerted effort implemented to stop destroying the earth in every way.

To write that, "a ban treaty would be ineffective" seems so irresponsible that it could be part of a comedy. A treaty might not be the only step, but it is definitely one of them. If a treaty of intent "will not help to create the conditions for further major reductions in nuclear arsenals", what will?

The division between non-nuclear and nuclear weapons states exists, whether we like it or not. The division is similar to that of wanting a future for Humanity or not. Part of the goals of this treaty is to make it clear for everyone, which countries support the ban. By supporting the ban a serious intent and responsible commitment to ban nuclear bombs is shown.

This is an opportunity for the Australian government to properly represent the Australian people and SUPPORT the ban, as by far the greater percentage of Australians support the global ban of all nuclear weapons! The argument: "I am for the ban but I prefer to do it my way" is totally absurd. The ban has to be achieved in every way. Those who want to make it difficult and complicated have to wake up. The global ban of all nuclear weapons starts this year with one simple step, ratifying the UN treaty on 7th July.  
<http://www.icanw.org/>

A bilateral nuclear exchange between the two nuclear superpowers would take little over one hour to complete. You are no doubt aware that the US still has an official policy to fight and win a nuclear war?

Recently the media reported that US lawmakers had sent a proposal to the White House urging the Trump administration to withdraw from the INF arms control treaty that was negotiated between the United States and Russia in 1987. The INF treaty prohibits the development, deployment or testing of ground-launched ballistic or cruise missiles with ranges between 300 and 3,400 miles.

Dr. Helen Caldicott, co-winner of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize and named one of the most influential women of the 20th century by the Smithsonian Institution responded to this proposal, "For God's sake why doesn't the US take responsibility for its extremely provocative behavior?" Caldicott, who is also the founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility queried whether US government policymakers and members of Congress recognized the inevitable catastrophe that would result from their policies in Europe and that they were headed towards "global nuclear holocaust."

In the short run the inevitable sales of new nuclear weapons would ensure the giant US corporations continued to make enormous profits from their advanced weapons sales to the US and NATO armed forces. But in the long run, the same policies would ensure total destruction for all, Caldicott warned.

Let us examine the medical effects of such an event so we can understand the lunacy of US policy.

A hydrogen bomb will land at twenty times the speed of the sound, and explode in the fraction of the millionth of a second, with the heat of the sun. It will excavate a crater three-quarters-of-a-mile wide and eight hundred feet deep converting the buildings, and millions of tons of earth below to pulverized radioactive injected into a mushroom cloud. Six miles in all directions—every building destroyed, concrete and steel melt, every person killed, most vaporized. Twenty miles in all directions people are killed or lethally injured. Winds of five hundred miles an hour turn humans into missiles traveling at a hundred miles an hour who will then die from compound fractures and internal organ injuries. The shock wave enters the nose and mouth causing acute pneumothorax and ruptured lungs. Windows will “popcorn” producing shards of glass flying at a hundred miles an hour decapitating people and inducing severe lacerations. Everyone will die - some immediately, some in a few days, in the most extraordinary agony, and suffering from acute radiation sickness.

The US Federal government has stockpiled huge quantities of morphine, in case of nuclear war but all hospitals will be destroyed and all doctors dead or injured. Forty miles from the epicenter one glance at the flash will induce blindness from retinal burns. The whole area will then be engulfed in a firestorm of three thousand square miles - a holocaust! A fallout shelter is useless because it becomes a crematorium as the fire consumes the oxygen and bakes the shelter.

The Federation of American Scientists estimate that if the nuclear attack occurs in summer, America will be consumed in fire, coast to coast, north into south. And it could happen tonight or tomorrow by accident, design or computer hacking.

Millions of tons of smoke and soot will be injected into the stratosphere there to cover the earth with a cloud so thick that it will block out the sun for up to

ten years inducing a short ice age and everyone and everything will freeze to death in the dark.

It is clear that the majority of Americans and the media are practicing psychic numbing and manic denial as they sleepwalk towards Armageddon.

Whilst many Australians are awake to the dangers of nuclear bombs our government, by supporting US policy, must also take responsibility for supporting such horrors being possible. Australia would not survive such a holocaust; besides being targeted on account of our support for US imperialist policies it's unlikely that anyone would survive a nuclear winter.

There are but a few days left to ratify the UN treaty, which closes on 7<sup>th</sup> July. I'm writing to urge you in the strongest possible way to show Australia's support for a future free of nuclear weapons and do all you can as Prime Minister of this country to ratify this treaty.

Sincerely