



**Concerned that the Bush Administration's nuclear policies are making us less secure?  
Join us in New York City on August 29 to Say No to the Bush Agenda!**

**The Bush Agenda: Lowering the Threshold for Nuclear Use**

The original, and wholly false, pretext for the Iraq war was the U.S. claim that Iraq had an active nuclear weapons program. On the verge of war, George W. Bush proclaimed, "We cannot wait for the final proof—the smoking gun—that could come in the form of a mushroom cloud." What Bush didn't say was that the mushroom cloud was more likely to emanate from the United States than anywhere else.

Following the 9/11 attacks, the Bush Administration openly declared the potential first use of nuclear weapons—even against countries who don't have them. The January 2002 Nuclear Posture Review revealed U.S. plans for first use of nuclear weapons in response to non-nuclear attacks or threats involving biological or chemical weapons or "surprising military developments," and targeted countries including Iran, North Korea, Syria, and Libya. The December 2002 Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) declared that the U.S. "reserves the right to respond with overwhelming force—including through resort to all of our options—to the use of WMD against the United States, our forces abroad, and friends and allies." The options include both "conventional and nuclear response" capabilities, employed in "appropriate cases through preemptive measures."

The Bush doctrine labels nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as "weapons of mass destruction." But as horrific as chemical and biological weapons are, nuclear weapons are more destructive by orders of magnitude. A single modern nuclear weapon can destroy a city in an instant, killing hundreds of thousands—or even millions—of people. Equating nuclear, chemical and biological weapons is one way the U.S. is lowering the threshold for nuclear use.

**Bush's Nuclear Weapons Budget: \$6 Billion per Year and Growing**

This year, the Department of Energy (DOE) is spending \$6.2 billion for nuclear weapons research, development, refurbishment and testing. The U.S. is modernizing every weapon type in its vast nuclear arsenal. "Advanced weapons concept teams" have been established at the nuclear weapons labs, and research is underway on low-yield nuclear warheads and targeting techniques to make nuclear weapons more "useful," as well as high-yield "bunker busters" many times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb that incinerated 70,000 people.

New nuclear weapons activities add to serious environmental degradation caused by more than fifty years of nuclear weapons testing and production. Radioactive and toxic contamination has damaged the health of thousands of DOE workers and people living near its facilities, and has put at risk crucial natural resources, including water.

**Bush's "National Security" Policy: Do as We Say, Not as We Do**

The Bush Administration has withdrawn from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, and declared its opposition to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and to verification of a proposed ban on uranium and plutonium for nuclear weapons. While selectively accusing other countries of noncompliance it is completely disregarding U.S. disarmament obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. There are 10,650 nuclear weapons in the current U.S. arsenal. Under the Bush plan for non-verified reductions, the nuclear stockpile will include over 6,000 active bombs and warheads in 2012.

**We say no to war, greed, hate, lies, nuclear weapons, and militarism, and yes to universal security based on human and ecological needs.**

**We march on August 29 to say No! to the Bush Nuclear Weapons Agenda.**

**Assemble at 10:00AM at 14th Street & Seventh Avenue; march steps off at noon.**

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**www.unitedforpeace.org 212-868-5545**

