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The World Foundation for Natural Science
World Headquarters
P.O. Drawer 16900
Washington, DC 20041, USA
Tel.: +1(703)631-1408
Fax: +1(703)631-1919
E-mail: hq@naturalscience.org



The World Foundation for Natural Science
European Headquarters
P.O. BOX 7995
CH-6000 Lucerne 7
Tel.: +41(41)798-0398
Fax: +41(41)798-0399
E-mail: eu-hq@naturalscience.org

www.naturalscience.org

ARE NUCLEAR WEAPONS LEGAL?

Written Statement to the International Court of Justice in The Hague

The Most Reverend Peter W. Leach-Lewis, SF, AG

The World Foundation for Natural Science, Washington DC, USA

On 14 May 1993 the 46th World Health Conference, the highest authority of the World Health Organisation (WHO), passed a historic resolution in the Palace of Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. It obliges the WHO to apply for an experts' report from the International Court of Justice on the legal status of the use of nuclear weapons. After the General Assembly of the United Nations had adopted this significant resolution 49/75 K on 15 December 1994 the former Secretary-General of the UN Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali filed to submit to the Court, for advisory opinion, the following question: "Is the threat or use of nuclear weapons in any circumstances permitted under international law?" The resolution asked the Court to render its advisory opinion "urgently." On 2 February 1995 the International Court of Justice issued a communiqué by which the Member States as well as the legitimate international organizations have been required to furnish information on the question. As an international organisation *The World Foundation for Natural Science* felt obliged to file a written statement to the International Court of Justice and, in doing so, stand up for the future of all life on this unique planet.

Dear Honourable Justices,

WITH DEEPEST RESPECT we humbly submit to you our world opinion as requested, and urge you to contemplate seriously the legal point of view that we are compelled to lay before the World Court, regarding the "Legality of the threat or use of Nuclear Weapons." Admittedly, even though we have earned the right to be recognised as a world body of considerable magnitude and power, whose opinion is more than worthy of consideration, we realise that we cannot be called a "State" as classified by the International Court, and therefore not able to send representatives of *The World Foundation for Natural Science* to make our Presence known at "The Peace Palace," or to address the United Nations in New York. Chambers Dictionary of the English language defines a "State" as "one of a number of political communities forming a federation or republic under a central government; the territory of such a community."



THE PEACE PALACE, INT. COURT OF JUSTICE, THE HAGUE

But Chambers also defines "State" as "a body of men and women united by profession; an estate, Order, or class in society or the body politic; a civil power." We are all of these and more, your Honour, and it is in this role that we come to you today, praying that you will consider what we have to say in the hope that it will bring the Light of Divine Reason to shine brightly on your final decision. For this we thank you in advance, for we still have faith and trust in the International Court of Justice when there seems to be so little left in the world for us to place our trust in. We ask you to hear our plea; truly it is a cry for all of humanity. Please don't fail us now.

IS THERE A PEACEFUL USE
—FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY?—

BY ITSELF, so-called "peaceful" Nuclear Energy is far from safe; that is why so many so-called redundant "safeguards" have to be in

place before a Nuclear power plant can begin operating, if indeed it ever does. The nuclear fuel rods might be “safe” as long as they are immersed in cool water, but the spent rods aren’t. They are far from “spent,” and millions and millions of wasted dollars are being spent in trying to get rid of massive quantities of this highly dangerous “waste.” No one has yet come up with a way to dispense of these old rods properly, because far from being lifeless they have a life-threatening toxic, extremely “radioactive” life of their own that far exceeds their justifiable “life.”

One does not have to be too intelligent to realise just how stupid and wrong playing around with Nuclear “energy” is—so stupid, in fact, that it really begs the question as to why 15 Supreme Justices of the SUPREME Court of the World have to be even bothered with having to make, to give, to offer such an obvious “opinion” on whether it is “legal” or not. It’s ludicrous to the extreme. It should have never reached this stage, but the fact that it has shows just how immoral the whole Nuclear Industry is. Now they want your “opinion” to give “life” to their diabolical industry so they can continue on with insouciant disregard for the irreversible damage they know they are inflicting on us all, except that now the World Court will have given them the stamp of “legality.” In other words you will be telling the world that what the Nuclear Industry is doing is right, when it isn’t. It could be, but not the present way mankind is playing around with something they know very little about. Yes, “playing around” on a small scale in laboratories will eventually yield greater knowledge, but to take what little understanding we had and start playing with Nuclear Energy on such a large and obviously dangerous scale is what is threatening this world and all life upon it.

===== OBJECTIONS TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS =====

SO FAR, all we have been talking about is the science of Nuclear Energy which the world has come to accept as “legal,” and which you have yet to render an opinion upon. We have yet to argue against Nuclear weapons because even though they might be the subject of your proposed decision it is necessary to look at the whole picture. For regardless of how we have corrupted the word “weapon” to suit our illegal actions, there can never really be a weapon of defence. Weapons are designed to kill and to destroy. Every weapon is offensive, and should be treated as such, in both meanings of the word! I know there might be some who will cite the now defunct Anti Ballistic Missile (ABM) System as a “weapon” of defence designed to annihilate weapons of offence high in the stratosphere before they land, or the famed low-flying “Patriot” Missile System of the Gulf war days, but do not be fooled by these arguments. Neither an ABM nor a Patriot Missile can really be classed as a “weapon,” not even a “weapon of defence.”

Of course a weapon is nothing until you wield it, but it will always be a weapon for that is what it was designed and made to be. And, once you are forced to use it, it becomes an aggressive

weapon designed to kill and destroy, but yet it is “legal” for individuals or governments to have such weapons. What you need to consider more than anything is the difference between an aggressive Nuclear weapon of destruction and a benign Nuclear agent of destruction. Both are presently classified as not illegal, yet both are killers, and killing is unlawful because the majority of people on Earth consider killing to be abhorrent to the senses and immoral, if not deliberately disobeying the Sixth Commandment of Almighty God—“THOU SHALT NOT KILL!” Now we have re-translated that to be “Thou shalt do no murder,” classifying everything but “putting a person to death intentionally and unlawfully” as being a legal deprivation of life. Depriving Life of LIFE—killing in any form—whether justified or not, is immoral. It always has been, and it always will be.

Are you, as Supreme Judges of our own making, on one side of the line and us—the people of the World—on the other? If so, where then do we stand? If you and I are not on the same side, why then are you creating for us a world that does not speak for us? Where then do you stand? For without us and without the power of the people you are nothing, for YOU SPEAK FOR THE WORLD and everything in and upon Her! We are a part of you, because you speak for us, and that is why we felt that we had more than the right to offer our Advisory Opinion on such a necessary occasion.

===== IS KILLING LEGAL? =====

BASICALLY WHAT YOU ARE BEING ASKED IS, “Is killing legal?” Sometimes, yes, but who decreed this to be so? We, as a people, using our courts and yours said so. But killing is still immoral, whether “legal” or not. Putting to death our fellow human beings is as immoral as giving our fellowman a “licence” to go out and kill, and we do. We give our “soldiers” and our “law-enforcement” agencies a licence to kill, but when we are faced with the awful realities of the people’s “Proxy” to KILL for us, we shrink in horror. We don’t like to see whales harpooned, we cry when we see tens of dolphins struggling helplessly in a tuna boat’s nets, and we visibly shudder to see a dozen African elephant feet lined up to be used for umbrella stands. Yet, at one time, to kill these animals was perfectly “legal,” because we took upon ourselves the so-called power to give to our fellowman the licence to kill. It is revulsion of these practices that has goaded man into declaring all three of these IMMORAL practices illegal.

If we are to believe the story of creation as written in the first chapter of the Christian Bible—the first Book of the Jewish Torah—“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the Earth and over every creeping thing that creeps the Earth.’” [Genesis 1:26] ‘Dominion’ means “Sovereignty: Lordship: a domain or territory with one ruler, owner or government....not subordinate to but freely associated with the Mother-country.” Isn’t this our

relationship to “Mother Earth” also? Being a Sovereign means that one is a Supreme Ruler (a King, Queen, Monarch, Emperor, Lord, Tsar, Shah, Sultan, Kaiser, Regent, or Maharajah, no matter what one calls him or herself), but this does not mean that one has the right to kill off his or her subjects one by one, for that would eliminate their domain. Neither does this give to us the right to destroy the Kingdom entrusted to us while we still have ‘Dominion’. Neither do others “Having Dominion” give to them the right to shoot and KILL the Life that has been entrusted to them to look after, to feed, to nurture, and to expand.

IMPORTANT IS WHAT YOU
TRULY BELIEVE

WHETHER YOU BELIEVE this or not is irrelevant. What is important is WHAT you truly believe; not because of a “legal precedence” of the past that has nothing to do with the present situation, nor because of what you are willing to believe for the sake of convenience. That is what has got this World of ours into trouble, because we believe what we want to believe when we choose to believe it, but that moment never arrives except when we choose it to. We change THE LAW to suit our own purposes, by adding one human ‘statute’ after another, until we no longer recognise THE LAW as it was once given to us, and that is why we change it; not only to suit our own purposes, but to be able to say, “I DIDN’T KNOW,” or “NOT ME!”

And so the question that needs to be asked again and again—in every hamlet, village, town, and city throughout the world—can MORALITY and LAW find a place together once again in our modern day society? For this we have to go back to basics—back to Common Law. Statutory Law has its place, and is very necessary, but when you are considering the Life or Death of LIFE then you must try your utmost to think as your Creator would think—you who were “made in the Image and Likeness of Almighty God” [Genesis 1:26]—and protect ALL of Creation. If you take the time to study the ancient Scriptures, again and again you will see that our Creator looks upon us as Gods and Goddesses *in embryo*. The Great Lord even reminds us of this in The Bible when He says, “Is it not written, I said, ‘You are Gods?’” [John 10:34]

The definition of **Morality**, according to the Chambers Dictionary, is given as: relating to character or conduct considered as good or evil; ethical; adhering to or directed towards what is right; the doctrine or practice of the duties of



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GRAND STAIRCASE OF THE PEACE PALACE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AT THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS.

life; subject to moral law. The **Law** is a rule or code of action established by authority in any department of action, such as morality or honour. And that is how you decide whether what we are doing with Nuclear energy today is really legal or not. Is it legal? Of course not! How can it be? It is immoral!! Therefore it should no more be stamped as being legal than listening to the smooth and assuring presentations of the powerful oil interests and “allowing” (another word for “legalising”) the infernal gasoline engine—which, since those erstwhile times of 1910 has all too fast become the major contributor to toxic pollution, smog and ozone depletion in the world today!

WHAT IS LEGAL?

AND THIS IS THE POINT, dear Honourable Justices. What is LEGAL and into whose hands are we giving the man-made Licence of so-called “Legality”? Just because so many people own guns, and dealing in arms and weapons of destruction has become a billion-dollar business in its own right, does that make them right? Does it make them legal? Just because the U. S. Department of the Interior sells duck licences every year to would-be hunters for \$15, do these hunters have the right to now go out and kill life because they are “within the law”? It makes you think, doesn’t it?

But what is there to think about with the “Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons”? It should be easy for each one of you to make a decision. It is obvious. Nuclear Technology by itself should be classified by Law as a threat to the well-

being of mankind, but as to using this technology to kill each other with it really begs the question as to whether the ones who are asking you this question have taken leave of their senses! Thirty-four years ago, in a speech he gave in the Philippines, General Douglas MacArthur said, "...This very triumph of scientific annihilation—this very success of invention—has destroyed the possibility of wars being a medium for the practical settlement of international differences." That is why the International Court of Justice was established—for "the settlement of international differences." If you legalise the threat or use of Nuclear Weapons, you are denigrating the World Court, of which you are supposed to be a trusted, moral, ethical Justice. Should you be foolish enough to rule on the side of the Nuclear Industry and their evil offshoot of the various Governmental Nuclear arms cartels, what hope then do we have of ever deciding again any serious world dispute without resorting to war? That is why the "Threat of the Use of Nuclear Weapons" was long ago given the common acronym of **MAD—Mutually Assured Destruction!**

Regarding Nuclear weapons as being a true deterrent, General MacArthur also had this to say: "The enormous destruction to both sides of closely matched opponents makes it impossible for even the winner to translate it into anything but his own disaster...Global War has become a Frankenstein to destroy both sides. No longer is it a weapon of adventure—the shortcut to international power—if you lose, you are annihilated. If you win, you stand only to lose. No longer does it possess even the chance of the winner of a duel. It contains now only the germs of double suicide."

Nuclear weapons are immoral. They are unethical. How then can they be "legal"? Dr. Albert Schweitzer wrote in his Civilization and Ethics of 1949:

"Ethics are nothing but a reverence for life. That is what gives me the fundamental principle of morality, namely that good consists in maintaining, promoting, and enhancing life, and that destroying, injuring, and limiting life are evil."

The threat of Nuclear radiation limits life. Nuclear waste is injuring life. Nuclear weapons are designed to destroy life. Therefore the whole Nuclear Industry, in its present stage of development, is evil. Whether they will ever be a benefit is difficult to say, but not if they continue going down the road they are presently on. They need to be stopped, and they can be....by you. This is not a difficult decision to make, nor is it a time to adopt a neutral position. Dante once said that the hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in a period of moral crisis, maintain their neutrality!

At present, billions of American tax dollars are being spent each year on preparations for war, weapons of war, industries of war—running the nation into unpayable debt while across the country untaxed gang lords cruise about in limousines, drug pushers and psychopaths prey on neglected children, homeless

grandmothers push their worldly possessions before them through the streets in shopping carts, and citizens of all ages contract Pistol Fever, shooting themselves and each other with handguns at the rate of sixty-four deaths per day—killing more Americans in two and a half years than did the sixteen-year Vietnam War (and wounding approximately one hundred thousand others yearly). And you are being asked to render an opinion on "The Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons?"! The legal definition of *Assault* is: The act of intentionally and unlawfully applying force to the person of another, directly or indirectly, or attempting or threatening by any act or gesture to apply such force to the person of another, if the person making that threat or gesture has or causes the other to believe he or she has the present ability to affect his/her purpose. Simple, isn't it? Wouldn't it be nice if we could make the Nuclear Threat as simply illegal as this? You can!

The old Soviet Union went broke feeding its military, whilst threatening everybody, and a self-righteous United States is following close behind. Meanwhile, little Germany (with a population the size of Great Britain), and an even smaller Japan (who, comparatively speaking, spend next to nothing on military matters), are beating the world in practically every area of endeavour. What does America receive in return for the trillions of dollars they have handed to the Armed Forces over the past thirty years? Ah, yes—half a million tons of hazardous waste per year!

== WHAT DO WE DO WITH TOXIC WASTE? ==

THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX is the nation's largest producer of it. What good *that* will do us is rather hard to say, however. And toxic waste isn't exactly the sort of thing we can just return to the store for a refund. In fact there is nothing we can do about it, and we are not the only ones. This is happening in many of the so-called "industrialised" countries of the world. We cannot even take pictures of the toxic waste dumps, or the military sites that are producing these Nuclear weapons and Biological bombs. We are told that they are "off-limits," "Federal Property," or they invoke the "Official Secrets Act." How convenient! Maybe we should invoke the "Civil Common Sense Consciousness Act" when they come into our private neighbourhoods where we live and try to bury the stuff.

Of course, that waste is sooner or later bound to leak out. Fourteen thousand four hundred (14,400) military sites are now officially recognised as toxin-contaminated—the cleanup of which is expected to cost taxpayers over two hundred **BILLION** dollars—making the United States military the country's leading Earth Abuser. And that is just for the USA! Although it might be to a lesser extent, this sort of thing is happening in every country where they have a developed Military-Industrial Complex, fed by the United States Government. Usually you will find that the best "customers" of the United States have even been allowed to develop a Nuclear Industry and become a member of the "Nuclear Club."

THE U. S. ARMY'S
PROPERTY

THE U. S. MILITARY now directly manages about 25 million (25,000,000) acres of public land and “borrows” another eight million or more (8,000,000+) from agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service—which allows one hundred and sixty-three (163) military training activities in fifty-seven (57) national forests, involving three million (3,000,000) acres. How respectfully do the Armed Forces treat the land they “manage?” Well...

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers describes “Basin F” of Colorado’s Rocky Mountain Arsenal as “the most contaminated square mile on earth.” Thousands of animals and birds have died by drinking or landing in its water. Nevada’s “Bravo 20” range is a sixty-four square-mile (64 sq. mile) moonscape after fifty years of battering. In 1983-1984, water from the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge overflowed into the area and mixed with the chemicals in its bomb craters, then receded back into the refuge—killing seven million (7,000,000) fish, and thousands of birds. Twenty-three million (23,000,000) artillery, tank, and mortar shells have blasted the forests and meadows of Indiana’s ninety (90) square-mile Jefferson Proving Ground. Approximately one and a half million (1,500,000) of these rounds have not yet exploded! Many are below the surface, nearly impossible to locate. An “expert” has stated that to decontaminate these once unspoiled areas, it would necessitate the removal of at least thirty feet of ground using armoured bulldozers—thirty feet down for ninety square miles! We won’t talk about the White Sands Proving Grounds, in New Mexico, or the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. These three are but the “tip of the iceberg,” as they say. Heaven help us all if you make Nuclear Weapons LEGAL!

TO HELL WITH THE FUTURE?

DESPITE THE END of the so-called “Cold War,” the dismantling of the Soviet Union as a supposed “super-power” and a tentative agreement by the U. S. with Russia to reduce our respective nuclear stockpiles of between 3,000 and 3,500 warheads, U. S. military policy continues to emphasise building more nuclear weapons and large-scale nuclear weapons systems like the Trident submarine and the B-2 “stealth” bomber. Why? Because it’s good for “business.” It promotes a “full-employment economy.” Hang the dangers. To hell with the future. The future is now, and whatever happens in the future is none of our business; or so they say.



ENTRANCE GATE OF THE PEACE PALACE, THE HAGUE—GIFT OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT

And despite increasing evidence of the hazards of nuclear power and the insurmountable environmental problems caused by a massive volume of nuclear waste, U.S. energy policy ignores safer alternatives and continues to promote a so-called “new generation” of Nuclear Power Plants as the major new source of energy into the 21st century. Heaven help us all!!

These two seemingly unrelated activities are presided over by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in its twin role as atom bomb maker and Nuclear Power

researcher and advocate. Sometimes the lengths to which the nuclear planners are willing to go to advocate the Nuclear Industry are astounding. Yes, you and I realise they are just protecting their jobs. But, like the dinosaurs of long ago, it is time for them to leave the planet permanently, or re-assimilate themselves into the heart of humanity and become a team player again. Nuclear Fission is dinosaur energy, to say the least.

But to illustrate how those in the Nuclear Industry are determined to continue with their misguided policies, and how this translates into cold, hard cash, in 1993 the U. S. Federal funding for Nuclear Weapons and weapons “systems” remained at \$ 61 billion (\$ 61,000,000,000)!! This represents more Federal money spent in one year than was spent on housing during the entire 12-year Reagan/Bush Administrations! At the same time, the U. S. “Administration,” urged on by the usual amoral, unethical and selfish interests, the Trilateral Commission, the “Bilderberger Group,” influential members of Congress and the Nuclear Power industry, are gearing up for yet another attempt to sell Wall Street and the gullible American public on a supposed “new generation” of “inherently safe” Nuclear “Reactors.”

STOP NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

FUNDING FOR NUCLEAR “Fission” and “Fusion” Research is rising, and it will continue to rise if we do not stop it NOW. If we don’t, then God help us all. This funding will be nearly \$2 billion (\$2,000,000,000) in this fiscal year of 1995, dwarfing conservation and renewable energy research. In addition, the industry is pushing for taxpayer “forgiveness” of ten to fourteen billion U. S. dollars of debt by Nuclear facilities for uranium fuel and fuel-processing services. This is on top of such existing subsidies as the Price-Anderson Act, which limits nuclear utilities liability to \$500 million (\$500,000,000)

in the event of a core meltdown, a tiny fraction of the estimated cost. Yet all this pronuclear momentum faces a major stumbling block, as we said earlier, the question of what to do with the mass quantities of toxic radioactive waste. They never will find a perfect place to dump this waste, because our present technology—like finding the cure for cancer and AIDS—has no answer.

And, as it is with “cancer” and “AIDS,” we never will find an answer for that which is killing us until we STOP what we are doing and realise that we are on the wrong Path!! Meanwhile, as the Nuclear Industry and the U. S. Federal Government become more desperate in the search for toxic waste sites, their tactics have become more high-pressure, more insincere, and more coercive. Increasingly, they resort to more undemocratic methods, such as pre-empting whole communities and thumbing their noses at the local siting authority and state policy. Yes, without doubt, the Nuclear Industry (as it is with oil) is secure in the hands of the *arrogant*, the *avaricious*, and the *ambitious*—a dangerous mix, indeed. We must stop their nefarious advance, and we can....with your help.

===== THE ROLE THE MEDIA PLAYS =====

TODAY, THANKS TO THE NEGATIVE NEWS MEDIA, we are over-informed about problems we can do little or nothing about. Despite the great fanfare made about these problems, few of them have much of anything to do with our lives. When it comes to those that *do*—such as the matter of what the local Nuclear Power Plant is doing to our health—the media are quite often strangely silent. Strange. The Negative News Media rarely tell us of problems we can do something about, and never tell us what we can do about them. That would give us an unfair advantage, we suppose. But we do feel we can do something about Nuclear Energy and its weapons of destruction, and that is why we are hurriedly writing this letter to appeal to you before it is too late. May this letter get to you in time.

THE INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY IS NOT MATERIALISTIC

ALSO, TODAY, thanks to a rather lopsided cultural foundation, we live in what is commonly described as a Materialistic Society, but that description is in error. Ours is in reality an Abstract Value society—one in which things are not appreciated for what they *are* so much as for what they *represent*. If Western industrial society appreciated the Material World, there would be no junkyards, no clear-cut forests, no shoddily designed and manufactured products, no poisoned water sources, no obese, fuel-guzzling automobiles, no nuclear dumping, no toxic waste sites, nor any of the other horrors that haunt us at every turn. If ours was a materialistic society, we would love the physical world—and we would know our limits within it.

In Truth, Western industrial society does not even *notice* the Material World. It quickly discards it, and leaves it to rust in the rain. The material world is Here and Now, and industrial society does not appreciate or pay attention to the Here and Now. Like the military-industrial Complex, the Oil Companies, and the Nuclear Industry in general, corporate or business interests are too busy coveting and rushing after the There and Later On. As a result, they all too often fail to see what is right in front of them, and what is coming from that, and they also blind us normal, rational thinkers in the process. Simply put, the Nuclear Industry, along with their Military counterparts, like the greedy Oil interests, are all too ready to forget where they have been, and don't know where they are going. To illustrate the vital truth of this statement, we would like to close by giving you a very brief history of what we will call “Popular Radiation.”

===== BRIEF HISTORY OF “POPULAR RADIATION” =====

In the 1930s, as people were dying from the effects of radium-laced “Health” Tonics, the U. S. government established its first maximum level of tolerable exposure to radiation. Just in case, you know.

In the 1940s, following a study of Hiroshima bombing victims, that level was halved. Just to be safe, you understand.

In the 1950s, in response to concern over nuclear-bomb-testing fallout, which seemed to be affecting some people in unpleasant ways, the maximum tolerable level was substantially lowered. Just as a precaution.

At the same time, however, utility company advertisements were extolling the charms of the newest form of power generation—“clean, safe” Nuclear Energy. Their billboards invited customers to “Take the Family to the Nuclear Power Park.” X-ray machines were being used in shoe stores to examine children's feet. And people were having their supposedly-enlarged-but-actually-normal thyroid glands irradiated. Now they are doing this with our Supermarket foods, whether we like it or not. Like many exposed to radiation before them, and just like so many millions today who habitually cook with Microwave Ovens, a sizeable number of these people have developed cancer and died.

In the 1960s, more and more people came to suspect that they weren't being told the Whole Truth about this sort of thing. And then....

In the 1970s, researchers reported that Americans were being exposed to nine times more radiation from medical applications than from nuclear “fallout”—which, by then, due in part to studies of certain Nevada residents and military personnel, was being connected with all sorts of problems. In 1979, the Three Mile Island nuclear power facility broke down and irradiated the surrounding area.

In the 1980s, new data on the Hiroshima victims and their descendants showed that the risk of cancer from radiation was up to 15 times greater than authorities had previously believed. Emissions from nuclear plants were linked with thyroid damage,



"JUSTITIA"—THE PEACE PALACE, THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

miscarriages, and other health problems. And before the end of the decade, the Chernobyl nuclear facility near Kiev in Russia, like Three Mile Island before it, had done what so-called "experts" in the field had said it wouldn't do in a thousand years. Reports of near-disasters at other plants were being leaked to the press.... So the "safe exposure" levels were lowered yet again. Not taking any chances, you see.

Today, the public is being captivated by computers, word processors, and the like—whose cathode ray tubes emit X-ray radiation, and whose circuits and display terminals produce strong

electromagnetic fields. "They're perfectly safe," authorities assure us. And if any difficulties *should* happen to develop, we will certainly be notified. And, as we mentioned above, the latest Popular Radiation Device is the Microwave Oven, which unnaturally bombards foods with high-frequency electromagnetic radiation, *irritating* it until it heats up. When there are so many better ways, it is as stupid and an unnecessarily dangerous way to cook food (and almost as uncontrollable!) as it is to use Nuclear Fission just to boil water! It's fast, convenient, and it "saves time," we are told by the advertising companies. But what, may we ask, do these "Micro-maniacs" do with the so-called "time" they save? When will we ever learn? This sort of perversion of Nature is "perfectly safe," authorities insist—if it weren't, the Wonderful Machines would not be on the market, and so many people would not be using them. Once again the so-called "experts" are wrong. We wish that they were not.

TRUST IN THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

AND SO *The World Foundation for Natural Science* puts our trust and faith in the World Court to do something to stop this madness before the Nuclear Industry destroys us all, whether by bomb or toxic waste. We implore you to seize this chance today, to bring about a real and positive change for this suffering world. Who on this Earth is better qualified, authorised, and honoured to Stand Up for Life rightfully by Law than you, your Honourable Ladies and Gentlemen?

We write this advisory opinion in deep respect for each one of you who are privileged to serve on the Bench of the World Court of International Justice, remembering always the Blessed Goddess of Justice Whom we honour and to Whom we must all eventually be accountable. Let the future of this blessed planet never have an end, but let us—you and I together—give Life to ALL of Life in the Name of Our Supreme Creator. Thank you very much for having read this opinion, and God Bless You ALL!

(Abridged for editorial reasons.)

THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE ADVISING ON THE LEGALITY OF THE THREAT OR USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS!

On July 8th, 1996, The International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague in The Netherlands released Communiqué Number 96/23 handing down their Advisory Opinion on the request made by the General Assembly of The United Nations (Resolution 49/75 K, dated December 15th, 1994) in the Case of “Is the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons in any Circumstance permitted under International Law?” This *Advisory Opinion* of the Highest Court in the world marks a historical turning point in the History of International Peace Politics stressing that

“THERE EXISTS AN OBLIGATION TO PURSUE IN GOOD FAITH AND BRING TO A CONCLUSION NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT IN ALL ITS ASPECTS UNDER STRICT EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL.”

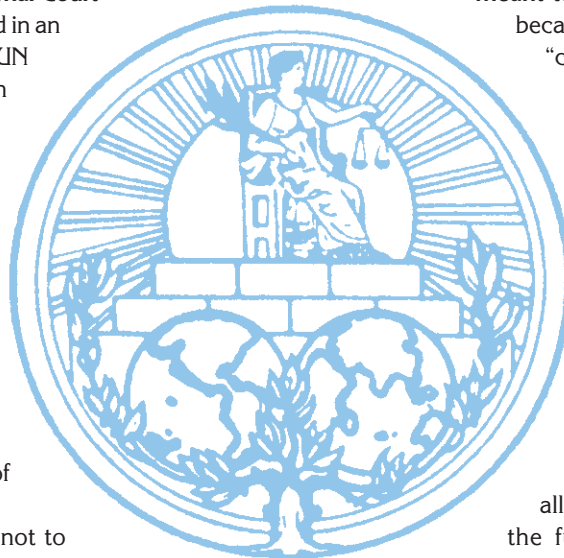
THE DECISION of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) was published in an experts’ report which the UN General Assembly had applied for in compliance with Art. 96, par. 1, of the UN Charter. The judgement contains three elements that will in the future play a decisive role in the assessment of the nuclear powers’ strategies:

◆ The court decided that “the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law;”

◆ However, the court deigned not to decide definitively the question “whether the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be lawful or unlawful in an extreme circumstance of self-defence, in which the very survival of a State would be at stake.” This reservation was accepted extremely narrowly: seven votes to seven, by the President’s casting vote.

◆ Finally the International Court of Justice reminded the nuclear powers of their “obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.”

This verdict is historic because for the first time not only the use of nuclear weapons but also the mere threat of using them is not just morally ostracized but is also contrary to international law. Admittedly, allowances are made for the “extreme circumstance of self-defence,” but even this problematic exception—which would destroy the very thing which was



meant to be defended—is only provisional, because the ICJ is of the opinion that “considering the current state of international law” and of “the facts at present available” the question cannot yet be definitely answered.

The principles quoted by the court were adopted from the *Hague* and *Geneva Conventions*. Weapons whose effects are uncontrollable or which are even deliberately employed against civilians have always been held as being contrary to international humanitarian law.

But until now nuclear weapons, of all things, seemed to be exempt from the fundamental rules of warfare. No nuclear powers were ever inclined to have

their nuclear strategy questioned by international law. International law did not prevent the use of atom bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki nor the arms race during the cold war. Expressions such as “counter-city strike” were aimed directly at the civilian population, that was supposed to be protected by international humanitarian law. The threat of genocide was part of the *Policy of Deterrence*.

Even the *UN General Assembly* could do nothing against the twisting of international law, despite the fact that since 1961 they had passed several new resolutions emphasizing that “the use of nuclear weapons is a direct violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity.” Such resolutions were merely recommendations and could, at best, morally influence the development of international law. Now the ICJ verdict has changed this course of events, forming an obligatory interpretation of international law. This decision,

one hopes, will finally put an end to the “pussyfoot mentality” of international law in dealing with nuclear weapons.

—THERE CAN BE NO PEACE WITHOUT JUSTICE—

THE VERDICT of the International Court of Justice has worldwide consequences: it has caused the nuclear powers’ strategy of deterrence to rock severely, because now merely the threat of using nuclear weapons is contrary to international humanitarian law. Furthermore, the *First Strike Doctrine* of NATO (in “conventional” warfare) can hardly be justified by an extreme circumstance. It is no secret that the judgement of the ICJ more than just irritates certain NATO strategies; they would have loved to deprive the Court of its jurisdiction (as the United States did in 1986, when they were sentenced for their intervention in Nicaragua). Moreover, this experts’ report lets us see the “Partnership for Peace” offered by NATO in quite a different light. How can there be peace when there is a military alliance that in its nuclear deployment and deterrence doctrine disregards international law?

“The nuclear weapon is, in many ways, the negation of the humanitarian considerations underlying the law applicable in armed conflict and of the principle of neutrality. The nuclear weapon cannot distinguish between civilian and military targets. It causes immeasurable suffering. The radiation released by it is unable to respect the territorial integrity of a neutral State.

I therefore agree with the Court’s finding [...], to the effect that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law.”

(SEPARATE OPINION OF JUDGE FLEISCHHAUER, GERMANY).

The nuclear powers have suffered an additional defeat through the ICJ’s verdict placing on them—against their will—an obligation of progressive nuclear disarmament within a yet to be determined time. At the Geneva Disarmament Conference they rejected the *Action Program of Disposal of Nuclear Weapons* which had been proposed by Egypt on behalf of all pact-free states, which gave India an excuse for not signing the *Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty* in September 1996. The ICJ experts’ report should make such obstructions more difficult in the future. Because it sticks to its opinion: “The legal import of that obligation goes beyond that of a mere obligation of conduct; the obligation here is an obligation to achieve a precise result—nuclear disarmament in all its aspects.”

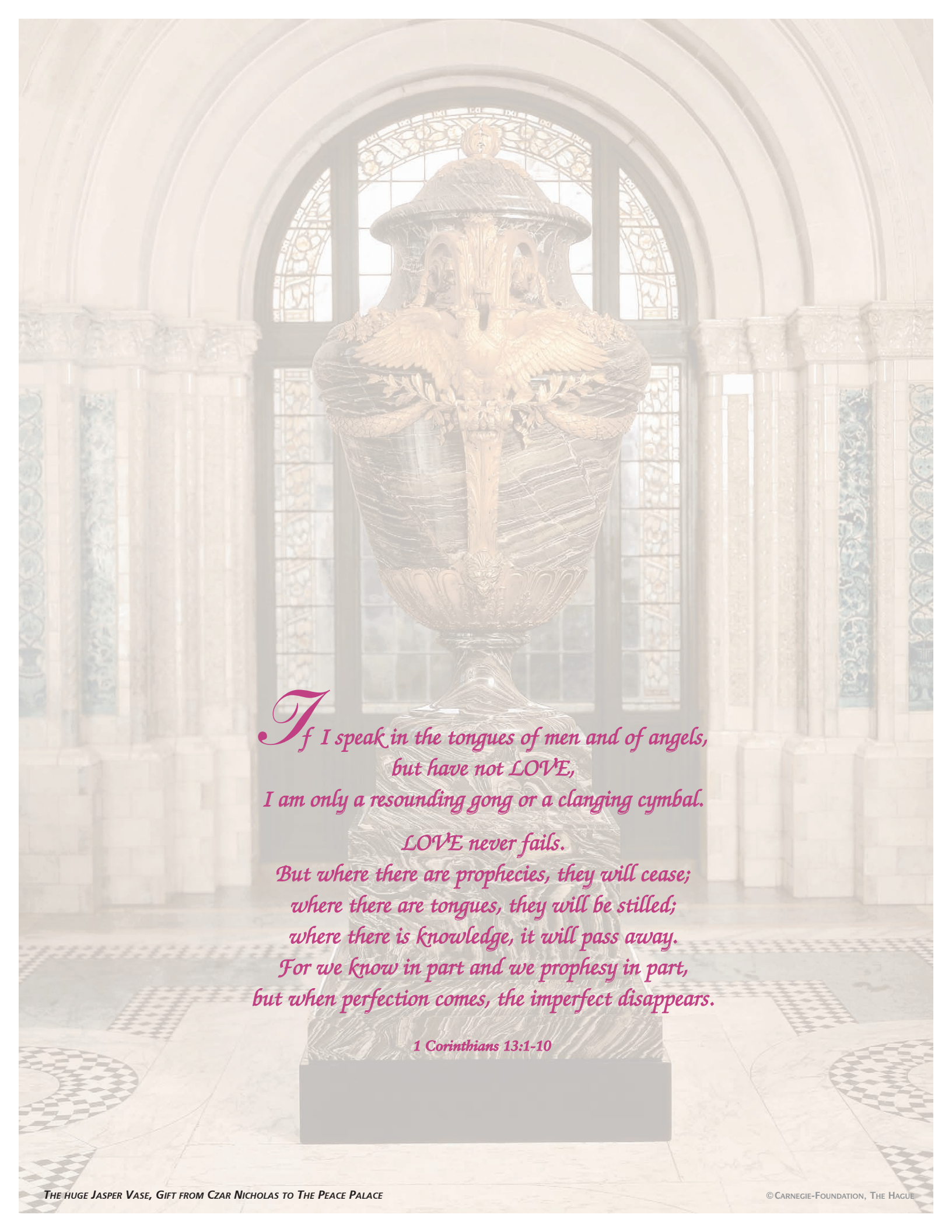
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A SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE IN THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEACE PALACE IN 1996.

COMPOSITION OF THE COURT:

Term:	Judges:	Vice-President (VP)/President (Pres.):
1976-2003	Shigeru ODA (Japan)	(VP: 1991-1994)
1981-2000	Stephen M. SCHWEBEL (USA)	(VP: 1994-97; Pres.: 1997-00)
1982-2001	Mohammed BEDJAOUI (Algeria)	(Pres.: 1994-1997)
1987-2005	Gilbert GUILLAUME (France)	(Pres.: 2000-2003)
1991-2000	Christopher G. WEERAMANTRY (Sri Lanka)	(VP: 1997-2000)
1991-2009	Raymond RANJEVA (Madagascar)	(VP: 2003-2006)
1993-2003	Géza HERCZEGH (Hungary)	
1994-2003	Carl-August FLEISCHHAUER (Germany)	
1994-2010	Shi JILYONG (China)	(VP: 2000-2003; Pres.: 2003-2006)
1994-2012	Abdul G. KOROMA (Sierra Leone)	
1995-2006	Vladlen S. VERESHCHETIN (Russian Federation)	
1995-2009	Rosalyn HIGGINS (United Kingdom)	(Pres.: 2006-2009)
1996-2006	Francisco REZEK (Brazil)	
1996-2009	Gonzalo PARRA-ARANGÜREN (Venezuela)	
1997-2006	Pieter H. KOOLJMANS (Netherlands)	
Term:	Registrar:	
1987-2000	Eduardo VALENCIA-OSPINA (Colombia)	(Deputy: 1984-87)



*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels,
but have not LOVE,
I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.
LOVE never fails.
But where there are prophecies, they will cease;
where there are tongues, they will be stilled;
where there is knowledge, it will pass away.
For we know in part and we prophesy in part,
but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.*

1 Corinthians 13:1-10

