leS. to the NEWS

RELEASE: AUGUST 17, 1976

by PHYLLIS SCHLA.FLV
Box 618, Alton, Illinois 62002
Phone: 618-462-5415

JOINING THE NUCLEAR CLUB

One of the first things Richard Nixon did after be **became** President in 1969 was to promote the Non-Proliferation Treaty with the Soviet Union. Ultimately it was signed by 92 nations and went into effect in March 1970. It was wrapped in the illusion that this piece of paper would bar the admission of new countries from membership in the most exclusive club in the world - those that own nuclear weapons. The club membership was then restricted to the Unitdd States, Russia, England, France, and Red China.

A new report just published by the Arms Con rol and Disarma■ent Agency provides evidence that the Non-Proliferation Treaty was just another one of the many u.s.-soviet **treatiei.pro■oted by** Nixon and Kissinger which were given uncritical acceptance by press and pols, and were inherently incapable of achieving their goals.

This report states that there are now some 20 countries with both the technical competence and the material to design and build nuclear explosives, and by 1985 nearly 40 countries will have enough plutonium from reactors to make nuclear bombs quickly, if they wish to do so. In sending the report to Congress, President Ford said: "A world of many nuclear-weapons states could become **extremely** unstable and dangerous."

It is common lmowledge th•t the 20 countries now on the threshold of nuclear capability include Canada, West Germany, East Germany, Israel, Iran, South Africa, Japan, Switzerland, Sweden, Brazil, Argentina, Egypt, and Pakistan.

In the worldwide euphoria spawned by the Non-Proliferation Treaty, no one seems to have suspected that nations might do anything so

(more}

double-dealing as to acquire nuclear technology and materials for peaceful purposes, and then build a bomb. That is exactly what India did in 1974 after the United States generously supplied it with reactors a:rul sitomic fuel. How Il1cHa pulled a fast oneou us was explained by one U. s. official on ·the ground ·that ttwe did not prope:r·ly understand the ease with which technology for legitimate peaceful uses could be transferred to weapons use."

Now that the nuclear genie is out of the bottle and eannot b put back in, how hould the United States cope with the unhappy pros prct. tb.atmany small countr:l.es will soon have nuclear weapon.s capabill

First, we shoula stop giving away nuclear wegpons material and technology. Second, we should dispel the illusion that treaties can substitute for a sound .v,ational f;trat.t.i,g,:y f..i-I' for an adequate defen.1:H· with mil i.tary weapons in-Leing;.

Third, we should reiJ.ouxa.:.::e the :.ALT I •r eaty of 1972 which prohibits· l!S frcm building un rmt:t-miusi.le defens . Article 15 of that treaty guarantees us "the right to withdraw from this Treaty" on six months' rmtice tf our nsu.p:n;)me interestsn are jeopard:J.zed. Our supreme in terest.s will c..irtainly be joopardized when dozens of countri.es hPve .nuclear weaporrn available :for deliberate or accidental or iac:ompetent launch, and we .have ahaolutely no way to shoot them down. if they come our way.

Fourth, we sl:u.mld procee,l '\1/ithont delay to build the twenty ADM sites so wisely ordered by President l,yndon Johnson, and which would defend all our lCDMs and most of ou:r m.aj.:.n:· population areas.

Fifth, if we are going to g:t-ve a:nythi.ng uuulear to oth r coun tries, we should give an ,'-tRM (lete11se to cur fri.enrls in \;"estern Europ . NATO is now under the gun of 600 to 900 mea:ium-r nge an . interm.ediate ra:nge ·rrnllistic missiles which the same new .hCD.A. n'"port says the sovietB are st.r,rting to MIUV. There is n.o prohibi t:ton a F.ti.nst this installation of r,rult,iple warheads, and President Ford .adi:1its that th:i.e pc'-!les a ne'11· strategic threat to our allies.

(end)