

9-6-1984

Letter from an Australian Anti-Nuclear Weapons Activist to Geraldine Ferraro

Geraldine Ferraro

Follow this and additional works at: https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/vice_presidential_campaign_correspondence_1984_international



Part of the [Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Ferraro, Geraldine, "Letter from an Australian Anti-Nuclear Weapons Activist to Geraldine Ferraro" (1984). *International*. 15. https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/vice_presidential_campaign_correspondence_1984_international/15

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Correspondence at FLASH: The Fordham Law Archive of Scholarship and History. It has been accepted for inclusion in International by an authorized administrator of FLASH: The Fordham Law Archive of Scholarship and History. For more information, please contact tmelnick@law.fordham.edu.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] New South Wales

Australia

6th Sept '84

Dear Mrs. Ferraro

For technical reasons the U.S. cannot launch a first strike. To change this would take a deliberate act of changing existing machinery. (that's all I am allowed to say) I suppose if the Russians sent a nuclear bomb over to the U.S. it would be possible to launch the U.S. second strike once it had exploded. To this extent a nuclear war by accident is possible.

Even if the Russian bomb had exploded in the U.S. there is still the need for President Reagan to make the decision to launch the second strike and I suppose he would ask for advice, before the U.S. second strike is launched.

There remains the possibility that President Reagan would not send over the second strike even if the U.S. was flattened. I cannot read President Reagan's mind although I think I get the impression that he is totally against a nuclear war. This possibility is one of the reasons why he is so strong, from what I can work out, on conventional war and defence by it. (I might be wrong)

There has been a suggestion that a drunken radioman and a drunken captain on a nuclear submarine carrying nuclear missiles could launch a nuclear war by themselves. These suggestions overlook the fact that there is an additional safety device on the missiles themselves that prevent them being launched unless there has been a nuclear bomb exploded in the U.S. (it is an electronic device that has a miniture computer in it) If this malfunctioned then there might be a possibility that the two drunken men could start a nuclear war.

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]