10-15-1984

Letter from a Swiss Supporter 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
https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/vice_presidential_campaign_correspondence_1984_international/61

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.
Dear Mrs. Ferraro,

I am sending you a copy of a new concept of nuclear disarmament I have elaborated together with friends. I have forwarded the same to Mr. Mondale also. Perhaps it may give you some new ideas about this issue in your election campaign.

The U.S.-population certainly is highly concerned too about the urgency of this problem, but at the same time, there is a general repression of the feelings of deep fear associated with it. If there could be presented to the world public a realistic way out of this extremely dangerous and difficult situation, this would not only cause temporary relief but could constitute a first step out of the actual dead-lock situation.

We hope very much that you win this election and that we hear from you.

With best regards
As long as politics fails to take up the nuclear issue in a determined way, it lives closer than any other activity to the lie that we have all come to live - the pretense that life lived on top of a nuclear stockpile can last. (J. Schell)

S - O - S - Program
(The Survival Of The Species - Program)

The current state of the world:

A. The armaments-spiral is turning ever faster and thus makes the release of a military conflict between nuclear forces, intended or unintended, more probable every day. J. Schell writes: '...and thus to go on piling up the instruments of doom year after year until, by accident or design, they go off.'

B. A thermonuclear war would destroy all life on our unique planet earth except maybe some resistant insects and grasses. All cultural accomplishments, all human traditions would be annihilated. The whole future, all the generations to come, which have a right to a wholesome life on earth, would be devoid of their existence forever by a short, but infernal catastrophe.

C. Such a global catastrophe must be prevented under all circumstances and by all means.

D. In order to accomplish this, it is imperative above all to destroy completely all nuclear weapons as soon as possible.

A systematic concept for the realisation of point D.:

The Elimination Of The World-Wide Nuclear Weapons
Premises:
I. The disarmament - negotiations between the USA and the USSR

/.

CH-3304 Au, Switzerland
Tel.: [Redacted]
have come to a deadlock.

II. Nevertheless, a great effort should be made (as P. Trudeau proposed) to organize a Summit-Meeting of the heads of Government of the nuclear powers in order to re-initiate new disarmament talks.

III. The totally new and different nature of nuclear weapons calls for a totally new way of thinking in order to overcome their dreadful threat.

IV. After many years of observing the disarmament negotiations, one comes to the conclusion that probably:
   1. only small steps would have a chance of success,
   2. that these steps must be planned in a way that no nuclear power at any time fears:
      a. to become weaker in proportion to the others,
      b. to be put at a disadvantage by the others and
      c. to lose face.

'It is essential to promote all possible propositions, as long they harm no one's integrity' (W.G.v.Baudissin).

'The key to this gradual procedure is to break the process of change down into numerous clearly defined steps.....The breakdown of the process of change into many steps allows us to deviate with every step only minimally from that "secure" state, to which we are accustomed.....All this results in a "Stragedy Of The Smallest Losses", where the gains, that accumulate, can be significant, while the actual risks and the imaginary apprehensions remain confined to a minimum.' (A.Etzioni)

The Elimination Of The World-Wide Nuclear Weapons.

Realisation

I. It should be the task of the summit meeting as mentioned above to reach an agreement to institute an International Neutral Experts Commission (INEC) with the following charges:
   Ia. Establishing an inventory of all nuclear weapons potentials according to an accepted code (quantity, quality).
   Ib. Elaboration of a ratio formula, according to which simultaneously an exactly proportional part of the nuclear arsenal, be it ever so small, should regularly be put to the disposition of this commission for the purpose of its elimination: a pre-

*To see addendum
cisely symmetrical reduction of the potentials according to a percentage principle, a mutual balanced force reduction.

Specification and Commentary

With the help of religious institutions, of the UNO, of the neutral, uncommitted, non-aligned nations and with the pressure exerted by world public opinion, such a Summit Meeting should be possible. An International Task Force, with a qualified personage at its head, should organize and coordinate this public relations job. The mere existence of a realizable concept is enough to enduce an immense autonomous dynamic force. As soon as one or two of the nuclear powers could be persuaded to cooperate, there will be increasing pressure exerted on those who hesitate. This force will be, on the one hand, evident in domestic policy, because in every nation there exist strong elements representing reasonableness and rationality that urge for disarmament. ('For both superpowers—and, indeed, for all other powers—avoiding extinction is a common interest than which none can be greater. And since the existence of a common interest is the best foundation for negotiation, negotiations should have some chance of success.' (J.Schell) On the other hand, in the realm of international politics, it would be evident that the degree of participation would be at an inverse ratio to the degree of realization of the S.O.S. - Program; the more world public opinion becomes aware of the realizability of this concept, the less excusable non-participation will be.

It has become obvious, that bilateral negotiations between the USA and the USRR do not lead to results anymore; therefore a new approach must be undertaken: delegation of the most critical issues to a neutral instance, consisting of a group of eminent personalities, under obligation only to the safe-guard of all mankind. This INEC should be considered relevant and competent only when each one of its members can be accepted by all nuclear powers; moreover, its decisions must be sanctioned by the same.

For the task of establishing an inventory of all nuclear weapons there has already been valuable work done by many institutions, such as The International Institut For Strategic Studies in Lon-
don, The Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in Stockholm and The American Center For Defense Information.

Each nuclear power could present its own list of nuclear arms for approval to the INEC. A nuclear power refusing to submit such a list or refusing to have it done by the INEC, would inevitably be suspected of deception.

Again, this inventory should be recognised as valid by all nuclear powers.

Such a verification and ratification procedure would certainly be quite time-consuming, but it guarantees the fulfillement of Premises IV.1.2.a.b.c. and thus results in real chances for disarmament.

The problem of B- and C-Weapons should be coped with on the same premises. Parallely, if with a certain temporal lapse, the task of reducing conventional arms should be undertaken. Because even after complete elimination of the ABC-arms, the knowledge about them will not disappear, and conflicts beginning on a conventional scale can always provoke a renewed production of such arms. It is imperative therefore, on a long term basis, to create a functioning mode for a non-violent mastering of conflicts by an international authority. This could be accomplished, when the proposed process of ABC-disarmament is successfully under way.

Another important step on this route would be an international agreement according to which no nation would be allowed to intervene in any way in the internal affairs of any other nation, an agreement conceived in such a manner that its observance would be absolutely compelling.

With the establishment of such efficacious international instances like the INEC, there is a greater possibility of coping effectively with other no less important international problems (hunger, population-explosion, economic and ecological crisis.)

Concurrently, a broad world-wide campaign should be launched against the production and the trading of arms. Its main goal would be the reduction, as much as possible, of the immense compulsive pressures which such armaments exert.
To summarize:

To prevent imminent extinction of life on earth, an International Neutral Experts Commission (INEC) should be instituted by agreement of the nuclear powers. This INEC would have the task to make an inventory of the complete nuclear potential, elaborate a ratio formula, according to which an exactly proportional part of the nuclear arsenal should regularly and simultaneously be put to the disposition of this commission for the purpose of its elimination.

CH-8824 Au, Switzerland, March 1984

'We have to match swiftness with swiftness. Because everything we do and everything we are is in jeopardy, and because the peril is immediate and unremitting, every person is the right person to act and every moment is the right moment to begin, starting with the present moment.'

(J.Schell)
Literature:

Alt, F.: Frieden ist möglich (Peace Is Possible)
Amalrik, A.A.: Can The Soviet Union Exist Until The Year 1984?
Bastian, G.: Frieden schaffen! (Create Peace!)
Berrigan, D.: Ten Commandments for the Long Haul
Eppler, E.: Ende oder Wende (Termination or Turning Point)
Etzioni, A. Siegen ohne Krieg (Victory without War)
Frei, D.: Der ungewollte Atomkrieg (The Unintentional Nuclear War. An Analysis of the Risks)
Fulbright, J.W.: The Arrogance of Power
Guha, A.A.: Die Neutronenbombe
Hackett, J.: The Third World War: The Untold Story
Jaspers, K.: Die Atombombe und die Zukunft des Menschen (The Atom­ bomb and the Future of Mankind)
Junkk, R.: Menschenbeben - (The Quake of Mankind - An Uprising against the Unbearable)
Kade, G.: Die Bedrohungslüge (The Lie of Threat)
Koch, P.: Wahnsinn Rüstung (The Madness of Armaments)
Lindsey, H., Carlson, C.C.: The Late Great Planet Earth
Mesarovic, M., Pestel, E.: Mankind at the Turning Point
v. Münch, I.: Disarmament - Subsequent Armament - Peace Treaties
SIPRI (Stockholm International Institute for Peace Research): Armament and Disarmament in the Atomic Age
Taylor, G.R.: The Doomsday Book
Addendum: For the nations with a relatively lesser amount of nuclear weapons like France, Great Britain and China, a mathematical formula should be worked out according to which the symmetrical arms reduction should take place in a degressive manner, in order to avoid a status of pronounced temporary military inferiority of these nations at the moment when, in the course of an effective disarmament under way, the approximate number 10 in units of nuclear arms is reached.