

WHO NEEDS WAR IN SPACE?

WE WANT PEACE ON EARTH!!

THE PENTAGON AND AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES WANT US TO PREPARE FOR WAR IN SPACE.

The US military is already using over half of the discretionary budget for 2003. Now the Pentagon, the aerospace industry and the US President are spending additional billions to resurrect Star Wars, with missile defense, weapons and nuclear powered rockets in space. Nobel Prize winning economists project a cost of \$500 billion in the next 13 years if these plans proceed, and over a trillion in 33 years. (<http://www.armscontrolcenter.org/nmd/fullcost.pdf>) Yet leading scientists and aerospace engineers believe "star wars" is an expensive boondoggle that may enrich the aerospace industry, but can never work. http://www.abolishnukes.com/short_essays/md_farce_whitmore.html . Still others point out that it violates our own laws under the 1967 UN Treaty on Peaceful Uses of Space, and ultimately may trigger the wars that can exterminate humankind.

WE IN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM BELIEVE MOST USA CITIZENS HAVE A BETTER VISION FOR OUR FUTURE!

We love our country and are proud of our democratic heritage. Our nation helped lead the world to recovery after World War II devastation. It helped create and host the United Nations. Our leaders assisted in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and worked to develop a framework of international law. We believe it is time for us to reassert democratic values and turn our energies toward the creation of peace on earth. We do not want our country and its military contractors to endanger life on earth by preparing for war in space. We want more of our tax dollars used to support and enhance life on earth. We do not want to follow a course that risks humanity's destruction!

(All quotes in italics below are from Vision 2020, available at www.gsstitute.org/resources/extras/vision_2020.pdf)

PENTAGON: *The proliferation of missiles and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) required an NMD (National Missile Defense). The NMD will evolve into a mix of ground and space sensors and weapons.*

WILPF: Instead of putting weapons in space the US must lead the way in enforcing the UN Nuclear Weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty. Unfortunately we are now violating it with threats of nuclear first strike and development of new nuclear weapons. The US is also one of twelve nations blocking the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and is preparing to resume tests.

PENTAGON: *US Space Command -- dominating the space dimension of military operations to protect US interest and investments. Integrating space forces into war fighting capabilities across the full spectrum of conflicts.*

WILPF: We cannot foster democracies or human rights by dominating space and threatening other nations with war. We have built a nation under law at home, and we need to co-operate within the United Nations to build a world community of nations under law!!

PENTAGON: *The medium of space is the fourth medium of warfare -- along with land, sea and air.*

WILPF: Star wars may seem exciting in TV flicks, science fiction or computer games -- but in the real world modern warfare in space or on earth means the death of millions of persons, precious as ourselves -- and probably the extinction of human life on earth.

PENTAGON: *Control of Space is the ability to assure access to space, freedom of operations within the space*

medium and an ability to deny others the use of space, if required.

WILPF: In 2000 163 nations joined in the UN in reaffirming the 1967 UN Treaty on the Peaceful Uses of Space. Only the US, Israel and Micronesia abstained! We should lead in the search for peace, not lag behind!!

PENTAGON: *US SPACE COM will have a greatly expanded role as an active war fighter in the years ahead as the combatant command responsible for National Missile Defense (NMD) and space force application. Global Engagement combines global surveillance with the potential for a space-based global precision strike capability*

WILPF: Promoting warfare and carrying it into space may enrich aerospace industry and military contractors in the short term, but in the long term will endanger human life on earth. We must cooperate in building societies where human security and welfare -- not corporate interests and profits for a few -- are the first concern.

WILPF believes modern technologies should be applied first to social and environmental needs here on earth. We must turn our energies to solving problems on planet earth, and not to creating new imbalances and conflicts in space. Space weapons, space military systems and nuclear power in space should be banned by international laws. We should promote international cooperation in space. The resources of the earth and the solar system are to be shared by all, and not exploited by a few.