

The Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign

The Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign had its beginning in late 1979 when Randall Forsberg, director of the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies, drafted a paper—the Call to Halt the Nuclear Arms Race. National organizations and hundreds of regional and local groups and individuals endorsed the Freeze proposal and its goal of calling the U.S. and U.S.S.R. to stop the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and missiles and new aircraft designed primarily to deliver nuclear weapons.

Since 1981, when the national campaign began, support for the Freeze has broadened and deepened. In the fall of 1982, more than thirty percent of the American public had a chance to vote on the Freeze. Overall, sixty percent of those voting favored the Freeze. In 1983, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a Freeze resolution by almost a two-to-one victory.

In December, 1986, the National Conference of the Freeze adopted the current long-term goal of the Campaign: Enactment of a bilateral, comprehensive Freeze as an essential verifiable step toward lessening the risk of nuclear war; and the phased mutual reductions of nuclear weapons, beginning with U.S and Soviet ballistic missiles. These goals are concrete steps toward a vision of a world without nuclear weapons by the year 2000. Achieving the elimination of nuclear arsenals should be accompanied by an end to the cold war, sharp mutual reductions in conventional forces, conversion to a peace economy, and establishment of common security among the nations of the world.

The Freeze Campaign is now active in all fifty states. It is broad-based and non-partisan. Through the Freeze, American citizens are demanding that the nuclear arms race be stopped and then reversed.