

We are grateful for the the donations which we have received from **Fighting Chance** supporters designated specifically for this project. We will be very appreciative of further donations which may be made to help us complete this work.

Survivability and Politics

There is a difference of opinion that sometimes separates the advocates of a complete national blast-shelter program from advocates of expedient protection. It is important to understand this difference, because each of us should be advocates of both.

In the worst sort of Soviet surprise attack most Americans could be killed regardless of expedient defensive techniques. These techniques have, therefore, less value as a deterrent to war than would a proper system. Some Americans would, however, be saved by expedient techniques. Even if this is a small percentage of the total, it amounts to millions of people.

Do we fault the people who cured polio, because they failed to cure heart disease? Do we object to the therapies that have successfully treated leukemia and lymphatic cancer, because they are not able to cure colon and lung cancer which kill larger numbers of people? Saved lives are saved lives. Expedient techniques will save millions of lives in our immediate future. The scientists and engineers who developed these techniques deserve the Nobel Prize in medicine or peace or both.

Alternatively, it is sometimes argued that working for a national civil defense blast shelter system is counterproductive, because the effort will probably fail. Therefore all efforts should go toward expedient techniques and home shelters and should not be wasted on an impossible task.

First, the task is not impossible. It has been largely accomplished in several countries which together include more than one-fourth of the world population. Second, work toward a national system raises awareness of the problem and educates increasing numbers of people about expedient defense and home defense.

Opinion polls have shown that an overwhelming majority of Americans favor civil defense. Most of them, however, do not know how much protection is possible. The architects of appeasement and unilateral disarmament by America utilize a great many different falsehoods in their public presentations. Their most effective lie is that