

STRATEGIC DEFENSE AND CIVIL DEFENSE

Fighting Chance advocates both civil and strategic defense. We work harder for civil defense, because that is our chosen duty. Other organizations work harder for strategic defense, and we support them fully. I have avoided comparisons between these two defenses, because Americans need both. The two technologies are complementary. Neither one will work optimally without the other.

It is important, however, that Americans not focus wholly on the high-tech elements of strategic defense in a false belief that those elements alone will protect them, and that civil defense is not needed. First, consider strategic defense alone. If the government were to deploy, for example, the Brilliant Pebbles space based defense, then this alone would increase American security. As a strategic defense, it would be a first step. Perhaps most importantly it would represent a change in mental attitude and a commitment to defend the nation.

If that commitment were made, then the Brilliant Pebbles system would be followed by other elements. We would deploy a ground-based strategic defense and an air defense against bombers. Early warning systems would again be built, and all of this technology would be continually upgraded by new technology as it is developed. The importance of the first deployment of strategic defense is that it would represent a national commitment to do the whole job and to keep the system modernized.

Even if all of this were done, however, civil defense would still be required. Civil defense would afford protection against leaks in the strategic defense system, but that is not its primary purpose. Civil defense is the only answer to threats that cannot be met by strategic defense.

In his famous August 2, 1939 letter to President Roosevelt which stimulated the American effort to build the atomic bomb, Albert Einstein discussed the possibilities of the new weapon including its delivery. He said: *"A single bomb of this type, carried by boat and exploded in a port, might very well destroy the whole port together with some of the surrounding territory. However, such bombs might very well prove to be too heavy for transportation by air."*

As we know the bombs turned out to be small enough for aircraft and now missile transport. A good strategic defense might, however, render the air and missile mode of transportation impractical. As Einstein realized, however, there are other ways. Missiles are uncertain things - especially the primitive missiles that might be available to a small country. Having only one (or a very few) nuclear weapons, delivery by boat would be much more certain. In addition to the methods of delivery by which nuclear weapons might avoid strategic defense, we should also consider biological weapons which are so small that