

# Proposal for a Working Group/Campaign on Nuclear Disarmament

Frank Rosenthal

[frank@purdue.edu](mailto:frank@purdue.edu)

# Risk of Nuclear War?

- Bulletin of Atomic Scientists Doomsday Clock set at 2 minutes to midnight. Closest to midnight EVER set.
- Survey: 46% of Republicans (16% of Democrats) support a PRE-EMPTIVE strike vs. North Korea

# The Toxic Mix

- Buildup of Nuclear Arms (proposed \$1 billion increase)
- Nuclear Proliferation
- Donald Trump
- Additional risk factors...
  - Proposed development of “flexible” nuclear weapons
  - Exaggerated claims of effective anti-missile defense systems

WORLD / POLITICS

**In shift from Obama policy, Trump plans flexible use of nuclear weapons, including low-yield arms**

# History of Scientists and Nuclear Disarmament Activism

- Early concerns (Einstein, Oppenheimer, Pauling, Urey, etc.)
- SESPA (SftP)
  - Anti-ABM march (Washington, 1969)
  - Dr. Strangelove award (AAAS, 1970)
  - Magazine articles
- 1982 – more than ½ million people rally in NYC for a “nuclear freeze”.
- Organizations: Union of Concerned Scientists, Physicians for Social Responsibility

# Why a SftP Nuclear Disarmament Campaign?

- Moral imperative (our role in “saving the world”).
- Promote **Science for the People** values/politics...
  - Science used for the common good.
  - People before profits.
  - Peaceful non-dominating relations between nations (anti-imperialism).
- Organize scientific and technical workers.
- Forge links with other organizations.

# Possible “Nuts and Bolts”

- SftP position paper
- Science and technical workers petition
- National conference?
- Local chapter actions
- Speakers bureau
- Collaboration with other groups
- ???