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STATEMENT

By Leo Szilard

"I am far from being an expert in this field, but it stands to reason that an all-out civil defense program that includes large scale shelter construction at a total expense of, say, \$20 million, might save the lives of millions in an all-out war, who would otherwise perish. I personally would rather not be among the survivors though, for our set of values and above all our predilection for freedom would not survive such a war. There are two ~~very~~ relevant questions to which I do not know the answer:

(1) If the Soviet Union were to spend, say \$200 million for increasing the number, the size and the degree of "dirtiness" of her bombs, for every billion dollars that ~~America~~ <sup>we</sup> would spend on a shelter program, who would come out ahead in this ~~type~~ <sup>kind</sup> of a rat race?

(2) If we <sup>were to</sup> build shelters on a large scale and then, <sup>would</sup> rightly or wrongly, <sup>imagine</sup> believe that we could survive an all-out war, would this <sup>not</sup> increase our chances of getting <sup>into such a</sup> ~~in an all-out~~ war, by making us even more reluctant to display imagination and resourcefulness in our ~~international~~ <sup>with the Russians</sup> negotiations than we are today?

It is difficult to see how much real benefit a nation ~~would~~ <sup>may</sup> derive from fallout shelters, if that nation is a direct target of <sup>an all out</sup> attack and if, most, of all, of its cities are destroyed by bombs. But the

neutral neighbors of such nations could undoubtedly benefit from shelters and the proper time for them to build such shelters would be right now. They might apply to us for financial assistance <sup>seems to</sup> in order to protect themselves against fallout from ~~the~~ the bombs which, in case of an all-out war, we and the Soviet Union may be expected to explode in the air, and if they were to apply to us for such assistance, we could not, in fairness, refuse it to them."

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