

# Checkpoint

Howard Kurtz, Editor

A NETWORK NEWSLETTER FOR PEOPLE CONCERNED  
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STAT

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## ASCENDING ABOVE WORLD CRISIS:- SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SKILLS FOR LIFE AND HOPE

WORLD LEADERSHIP HAS FAILED TO EMERGE AND TIME IS RUNNING OUT. National governments are lost in world crisis. Basic assumptions of all national defense strategists have become obsolete. A generation of Kremlin/White House competitive research and development has produced the power to destroy mankind, a power the mythologies had claimed that God alone could command. Kremlin and White House policies of supplying military weapons to both sides of festering wars around the world, firing the flames of world-wide inflation and dread, are leading directly toward global tragedy and chaos. Only a "miracle" may save humanity. BUT . . .

THIS "MIRACLE POWER" MAY BE WITHIN REACH OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. AND CONGRESS - - UNEXPLORED. For the first time in history, knowledge and skills in all fields make it feasible to launch a new generation of research and development and testing of world-sized systems, management structures and legal institutions to stabilize international relations without threats of war, thereby releasing energies, resources and human creativity to assist all people in the struggles for food, clothing, housing, energy, clean air & water, health, education and national security. No national leader has emerged who dares proclaim clearly defined next-generation goals to develop and demonstrate LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR PLANET EARTH, in contrast to the past generation's success in developing power of death, destruction and obliteration.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, NOVEMBER 28, 1964, reporting the ordination of the late Harriet B. Kurtz, former editor of CHECKPOINT, to a unique all-faith ministry, wrote under the headline "WOMAN TO TAKE PEACE MINISTRY - She and Husband to Press 'War Safety Control' "

*" Man has attained the power to effect a man-made Doomsday," Mrs. Kurtz said.  
" This power is new to man; before, it was God's alone. This potential embarrasses and frightens man and will do so until we internalize what until now has been only book knowledge . . . the knowledge that we are made in the image of God and therefore have it latently in our nature to handle aright this nuclear dilemma. "*

*Mr. Kurtz said " The nation which emerges into world leadership in the coming generation will be the nation with the strategic vision to provide leadership in transforming one-nation defense power into all-nation security power, capable of guaranteeing positive national security and political independence for itself, its neighbors and its enemies. "*

THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE PRESIDENT TO "NEGOTIATE" WITH, OR BEG PERMISSION FROM ANY FOREIGN LEADERS BEFORE PROVIDING NEW INSPIRATION AND LEADERSHIP FOR THE PATRIOTIC PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONS. The President, with bi-partisan support of Congress, has the unprecedented power to (1) meet all requirements for national defense in the coming generation AND IN ADDITION (2) challenge the nations of the world to a next-generation "race" in the research and development and breakdown testing of civilized world systems to guard the security and independence and progress of all nations . . . the three "gut issues" for which the American people fought their Revolution.

HARRIET'S DEATH ON JUNE 17, 1977 CAUSED BUSY PEOPLE IN MANY FIELDS AROUND THE WORLD TO PAUSE FOR A MOMENT AND TO LOOK UP. In looking up many have caught a glimpse of Harriet's vision and faith in man's creative powers. In the mythologies of most world religions God-sized Power means (1) the power to destroy humanity in one hand, and in the other hand (2) the compassionate power to protect and enrich life for all humanity on the planet below. In the National Security Council & Staff an American President has superior command & staff assistance in wielding the power of death for humanity. But nowhere in the White House is there a Council . . . reporting to the President, and to the American people through their elected Congress . . . separate from and in addition to the National Security Council . . . through which the President can release the creativity and power and character of the American people for world initiatives pioneering the future systems and institutions of a civilized world order.

(Senator Adlai Stevenson (Ill.) is Chairman, Subcommittee on Science, Technology & Space; & Chairman, Subcommittee on Collection, Production & Quality of Intelligence.)

PEACEFUL USES OF CIVILIAN AND MILITARY SPACE TECHNOLOGY: THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HOWARD AND HARRIET KURTZ

Mr. STEVENSON. Mr. President, as a commentary on this year's Nobel Peace Prize awards, Walter Cronkite of CBS News recently expressed his view on the use of space technology for world peace. Walter Cronkite specifically mentioned Howard and the late Harriet Kurtz, Americans who have dedicated their lives to the implementation of space age technology for international peace.

In much the same vein, Bruce Callander, editor of the Air Force Times, pointed out in his column how much of the technology and knowledge developed for national defense can be used to help achieve a more peaceful and just world. Mr. Callander noted specifically how the Kurtzes, through war control planners, have pursued this goal.

I commend to my colleagues the views expressed in this commentaries, and I ask unanimous consent that the complete texts be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[CBS Radio Network]

WALTER CRONKITE REPORTING

WALTER CRONKITE. This is Walter Cronkite reporting with news and commentary on the CBS Radio Network.

Ordinarily, the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to people of some prominence—a Sakharov, a Henry Kissinger, a Martin Luther King. This week, however, the 1976 prize was given to a pair of relatively obscure Ulster women who—out of obscurity—created a growing peace movement among the women of Northern Ireland. Such recognition, of course, is encouraging to those who receive it. But it also serves to remind us that there are many remarkable people in our midst who have dedicated their lives to something other than their own well-being, but whose ideas and contributions often are lost in obscurity.

Marleed Corrigan and Betty Williams, the recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize, both are in their thirties. Their efforts to sell peace in Northern Ireland are about two years old, and they may or may not share credit for the fact that violence there has been considerably reduced since they began. Howard and Harriet Kurtz are in their sixties. For 20 years, they devoted their lives and what little they had in the way of fortune to selling an idea for international peace. They now are deeply in debt, and she is fighting a desperate battle with cancer. So far, their ideas had few takers, but they keep trying. The Kurtzes now live in Washington. He's an engineer and a former lieutenant colonel in the Air Force; she's an ordained minister. Their idea is to employ space age technology in the service of world peace. Specifically, they propose that the United States initiate a kind of global information service, plugging all nations into a system of orbiting satellites that

would provide everyone with economic, environmental, and even military intelligence about everyone else. In short, an open world. Now this, of course, is an astonishingly naive idea, and it hasn't been helped by the form in which it is communicated: closely typed pages written in the poorly structured rush of language common to people who feel they have too much to say to say it simply, and who want too much to convince to be credible. To make matters worse, the communication is laced with the seeming paranoia of obsessed people who are used to having their obsessions scorned. And of course, the Kurtzes have been scorned. They made all the rounds; they've talked to government officials, reporters, and editors. They managed to get their idea printed in the report of a Congressional committee, and last spring it got sympathetic treatment in the Washington Post.

But for the most part, their presentations probably are filed under "K" for kooky ideas, or in the waste basket. But consider for a moment some kind of system for an international sharing of satellite information not only as feasible, but probably inevitable at some point. And in military terms, the satellite already has opened the world for those who can afford the satellites. The satellite has made possible a series of American-Soviet nuclear agreements, even détente itself, by making Soviet objections to on-site inspection irrelevant. It's possible that Howard and Harriet Kurtz could have the germ of a valid concept. We're so used to judging ideas by their covers that we might laugh at the invention of the wheel, if it were not presented by a noted authority. The fact that two people with no official sanction have had the audacity to devote their lives to an idea and the presumption to push it is enough in itself to turn us away. But we might remember that some of the kookiest ideas on record have come from the White House, the Pentagon, and corporate board rooms. And that some of the best have come from unsanctioned people like the Kurtzes and the two Ulster women: naive people who didn't know that wisdom had been monopolized and licensed. There will be no Nobel Prize for the Kurtzes. But the nobility of their self-sacrifice for an ideal deserves thought and recognition.

[From the Air Force Times, Oct. 24, 1977]

TIME TO GIVE MILITARY DUE CREDIT

(Commentary by Bruce Callander)

What the military services need, some of the critics contend, is a peacetime mission which will:

Excite the country's best young people to the point where they will flock to the colors.

Convince the taxpayers that every penny of their defense money is going to a useful, constructive purpose.

Give career military people such a sense of importance and such a feeling of being appreciated that they will consider the pay and benefits only secondary.

Dispell the image of the armed forces as paid killers and replace it with one in which they are viewed as humanitarians in uniform.

The ad agency which could concoct that kind of corporate image for the services probably could write its own ticket.

Unhappily—or happily, depending on your point of view—Madison Avenue probably isn't up to it.

The Vietnam war did not make the services the most popular institution in town. The rising cost of defense hasn't helped. Concern over serious domestic problems has put day-to-day survival ahead of long-range survival in the minds of many people.

The military probably enjoys greater public approval than it did during the Vietnam

war or in past times of peace, but that is not saying a lot. Long before Kipling put the sentiment in verse, people were saying that a soldier with no war to fight is about as welcome among his fellow citizens as a case of hives.

In wartime—at least when there is general public support for the war cause—the situation is different. But it is not necessarily the professional soldier who is honored. Often as not, it is the short-time volunteer or the conscript, who may not have wanted to be part of it at all. A general mobilization involves enough people so that most of those who aren't in have a close friend or relative who is. It's hard to be negative when a loved one is giving his

In peacetime, the prime excuse for an armed military establishment is the threat of war. People may accept the protection they pay for it, but they rarely pay an insurance premium for it. The military mission which addresses the relationship of peacetime forces to the civilian community beyond that of peacekeeping and preparedness.

Perhaps it is ridiculous to think of the defense manpower, equipment and expertise as a national resource available for other than deterrence and battle.

But consider the magnitude of those resources—the planes, the ships, the heavy vehicles, the tools, the repair facilities, the laboratories, the buildings and real estate. Consider the number of doctors, dentists, policemen, mechanics, computer specialists, educators, lawyers, pilots, seamen, engineers, accountants, clerical workers, personnel experts, space technicians, electronics workers, musicians and firemen the services have produced.

One way and another many of these resources are brought to bear on problems of the national community. But the services rarely receive full credit for their contributions.

What if some way were found to make it a principle of national policy to use all of the resources of the armed forces for the betterment of the nation and the world in ways which would not compromise the nation's defense or reduce readiness?

A group called the War Control Planners—the non-militant peace group which has been discussed in these pages from time to time—suggests a way. They propose a world effort using space technology and other capabilities to locate new energy sources and mineral deposits, improve agriculture, detect natural disasters in the making, forecast and control weather and enhance world communications.

Each nation could participate in such a program by investing some of its military resources, the War Control Planners contend, but without giving up any of its defense capabilities.

The services already participate to a degree in such ventures, but there is a certain sense of national embarrassment about such participation and the military involvement is played low key.

Perhaps it is time to bring the military out of the closet, recognize it as something other than a necessary evil and restore national pride in its existence. Not needed?

Consider this tiny bit of evidence: Do you really believe that the reason young military people resent service uniform regulations is that they dislike not being able to effect contemporary styles? Or is it a deeper problem of being marked as a member of an organization with which they are not anxious to be so prominently identified?



# Remote Sensing of Environment

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL

## Editorial

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Like so many of us in the United States I became aware of the work of Howard and Harriet Kurtz only relatively recently, about a year ago. Portions of their testimony before the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, Subcommittee Hearing on NASA 1978 Budget, March 18, 1977, are reproduced here because they so well present their views on the major use of remote sensing technology. I commend their words to all of you.

First, however, you should know more about the Kurtz's. Howard G. Kurtz is an engineer by training, a former Lt. Col. in the U. S. Air Force, and a management consultant by profession. He graduated as a management engineer from Pennsylvania State College in 1930, having graduated from the U. S. Army Flying School as a pilot in 1929. He spent twenty-two years (1932-1954) in airline management positions with American Airlines, Inc., American Overseas Airlines, Inc. and Pan American World Airways, Inc., Harriet B. Kurtz graduated from Wellesley College in 1937 and Union Theological Seminary in 1962. She was ordained to the ministry by the United Church of Christ in 1964 with this mission in the field of war and global crisis, as her particular charge.

They describe their endeavors as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. Kurtz have devoted more than twenty years to the study of escalating world crisis and the clarification of initiatives the United States can safely launch to lead the world community toward a stable world order free from want and war. War Control Planners, Inc. was founded (by the Kurtz's) in 1963 as a vehicle for this activity and its newsletter, CHECKPOINT begun in 1968.

A steady stream of publications and television appearances has accompanied the Kurtz's activities ever since 1955. Evenly balanced among military, technical, religious and general publications, the most notable are: an appearance on NBC's *Today Show* (August 1971), articles in *Spectrum*, Journal of IEEE, (December 1973), *Military Review* (May 1969), *Esquire* (December 1969), *Tempo* (National Council of Churches) (March 1969), *America Magazine* (Jesuit) (October 1960), and *American Engineer* (September 1957). "Engineer versus War". In the Swarthmore College Library Building there is a special collection which includes more than 90 articles by Harriet and Howard Kurtz in military, technical, religious and general publications; articles about their twenty years of study, work, observation, speaking, writing and editing in the emerging new field of global pro-human systems and institutions to make Planet Earth safe for human futures; and back issues of the newsletter *Checkpoint*.

After reading their recent testimony a colleague observed that the Kurtz's speak as the conscience of technologists working in remote sensing. They do that and more.

G. J. ZISSIS

**IT IS UP TO YOU:-** This issue of CHECKPOINT was possible because some of you sent in tax-deductible contributions to War Control Planners, Inc. If more of you send contributions there will be future issues.

Your contribution may be a gift to the world for the New Year or the New Era. Neither Harriet nor I have received personal income from War Control Planners, Inc., but rather, we have invested our own dwindling resources in it. Your funds will pay expenses of the joint mission I am continuing, and the costs of printing and mailing the newsletter.

For many years Harriet and I have continued against strong rejection by the "softliners" who urge the President to weaken the U.S. unilaterally in the face of growing clear and present danger, and by the "hardliners" who urge the President to endlessly escalate the race toward the power to obliterate world civilization. These two factions have been fighting each other for years as the U.S. loses its claim to world inspiration and leadership. It has been Harriet's hope that we could help the President and Congress clarify a New American Purpose, bringing these disparate sectors ( and all in between ) together in a historic commitment of American creative power, to the distant objective of a civilized world community of nations and a worthwhile future for mankind.

Independently, many different people are searching for an appropriate living or dynamic Memorial to Harriet's prophetic Witness. Within the U.N. a famous sculptor is being asked to make a bust of Harriet. Discussion is in process about making a film of the audio-visual briefing we have used with thought leaders in government, and which many of you have experienced. Suggestions have been made that some kind of Annual Award be made in Harriet's name to those who provide leadership in redirecting advancing science and technology and skills toward global systems in support of life, in contrast to systems of destruction. If you have any thoughts along these lines, please send them direct to Rev. Leonard Clough, 36 Hawthorne Place, Montclair, N.J. 07042 U.S.A.

That there may be a future . . . HOWARD G. KURTZ

## COMMENTARY

Bruce Callander

# A Plan to Do Away With Wars

THE REV. Harriet B. Kurtz, 61, died of cancer here in late June. She was a minister of the United Church of Christ and founder, with her husband, of a peace group known as War Control Planners, Inc.

What follows is not an obituary of Harriet Kurtz. Her life was made up less of dates and places than of ideas — one consuming idea in particular: That civilization cannot long exist if people remain preoccupied with perfecting the means of destroying each other.

Readers of *Air Force Times* may recall reading about Harriet and Howard Kurtz and the War Control Planners.

The Kurtzes seemed, on the surface, to be the original odd couple. She, a graduate of Wellesley College (1937), studied for two years at the Russian Institute of Columbia University (1946-48) and earned her master's in divinity from Union Theological Seminary (1962). He, a War II lieutenant colonel with the Air Force, was an engineer with American Airlines and later with a consulting firm which had defense contracts.

In 1947, while helping set up New-York-to-Moscow airline service, Howard got a look at Soviet weaponry in the May Day parade. Knowing something about the corresponding U.S. arsenal, he felt he was observing the next world war in its embryonic stages.

Through the 1950s, the Kurtzes discussed global politics and possible alternatives with friends and concerned strangers. Their interest in the "peace movement" cost Kurtz his job, but eventually crystallized in a plan for what the pair

called the "Global Information Cooperative."

The concept is packaged in an elaborate audio-visual briefing and in lengthy documentation of Man's unsuccessful history of trying to find security in arms.

Hoping for converts among high-level leaders, the Kurtzes showered successive administrations with their documents. Some leaders were turned off by the unorthodox approach of the project. Others shied away from what they took to be religious and moral concepts.

At its heart, however, the plan for the Global Information Cooperative is neither moralistic nor at odds with national policy. It is simplistically realistic.

The basic premise is that the world's technology can be shared to the mutual advantage of all nations. The satellites with which nations spy on each other could be used, the pair argued, to manage the world's resources. They could help Man search for mineral deposits, monitor the weather, detect natural disasters, control agriculture and spread the world's natural wealth equitably among nations.

At the same time, the Kurtzes contended, no nation need yield up its national sovereignty or security until it felt safe in doing so. The exchange of information to aid humanity would parallel separate national programs for defense. When the nations trusted one another enough to begin disarming, the same satellites which monitored nature could be used to inspect and enforce the arms agreements.

The trick, the Kurtzes always realized, is to get one nation to take the initiative in launching such an approach. The logical one is the U.S., which has the military

strength to accept the risk, the technology to lead the way and the wealth to underwrite the initial steps.

They always conceded that there would be some expense, though they contended that it would be less in the end than the cost of a global war. The risk, they predicted, would be minimal — since the plan allows each nation to maintain its defenses until threats to its security have been removed — and the risk would be nothing to that of a continued arms race.

To Howard and Harriet Kurtz, the alternative always was the unthinkable use of power to destroy humanity. The solution always was "pro-human" use of resources and technology. Their frustration has been that successive national leaders agreed with them in principle, but failed to see the plan as a workable solution to basic world problems.

The Kurtzes had some encouragement from the Carter administration. It appears to be less than the polite acknowledgements which have raised, then dashed, their hopes so often in the past.

Critics of such peace plans argued that they are idealistic and counter to human nature. The Kurtzes' approach is not, after all, so different from those other centuries-old approaches to pacifying human behavior — that naive childish notion in the Golden Rule, for example.

To which Harriet Kurtz probably would have agreed, noting, however, that such philosophies have not really failed. They have just never been tried.

What set the Kurtzes apart from other peacemakers of recent vintage, however, was less a matter of philosophy than of style. They managed to be zealous in their

belief without becoming fanatical. They preached without pounding. They never gave in to the notion that the remedy for violence could be violent. While others pursued "peace" by bombing the war machine, they sought it by testifying before Congressional committees and bending whatever ears they could reach in the White House.

From all reports, Harriet Kurtz died on the brink of what most people would call poverty and Howard Kurtz continues their effort on a shoestring budget. Their work brought neither any material wealth for the investment of time and effort. But it is not the sort of thing which lends itself to an easy profit-and-loss accounting. They have had something else in mind.

One day, when nations have spent the wealth of several more generations on protection and seem no nearer to the desired security, something Harriet or Howard Kurtz said may stick in somebody's mind and sound more reasonable. It is doubtful that either name will be linked with it by then.

But that, one suspects, would not matter too much to them. If it works and if it helps, that probably will be enough.

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Address Correction Requested

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