

# International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

1985

*We were among the first to demolish the nuclear illusions that existed and to unveil the true face of nuclear weapons*

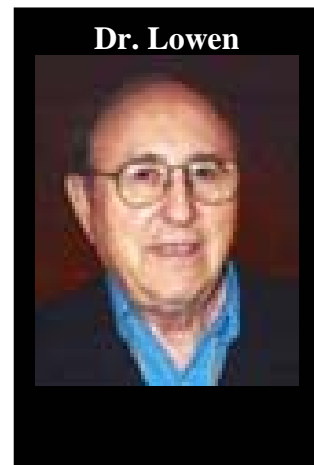


The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War was started in the United States at the height of the **Cold War**. This group of physicians wanted to use their medical skills to prevent war. By 1985 over 150,000 physicians from over 40 nations, including the former Soviet Union were part of this group. Their main idea is the commitment of doctors to protect life and preserve health. The organization works to educate the world about the dangerous **consequences** of nuclear war.

A long-standing working relationship between two **cardiologists**, Dr. Bernard Lown of the Harvard School of Public Health, and Dr. Yevgeny Chazov of the USSR Cardiological Institute, was the start of **IPPNW**. These two men exchanged letters and then met with six Soviet and American physicians in December 1980. That meeting provided the four point agreement that has been the basis of IPPNW.

The four points include:

- That IPPNW would stay involved in ways to prevent nuclear war
- That IPPNW physicians would work to prevent nuclear war as a way to protect life and preserve health
- That IPPNW would involve physicians from both east and west and would educate about nuclear war throughout the world.
- The IPPNW might encourage certain steps to prevent nuclear war but they would not give their opinions on specific policies of any government.



The IPPNW has its central office in Boston, USA, and a European office in London. Since 1981, it has organized annual World Meetings, the fifth being held in Budapest this year.

In addition, meetings of groups of physicians have studied and produced reports of the effects of a nuclear war on their own countries. An example of one of the IPPNW activities is their Bike Tour. This was a way for IPPNW members to educate people about what they do, and to keep funding for their projects.

## IPPNW Bike Tour September 28-30, 2007

From September 28th-30th of 2007, a group of more than 30 medical students, doctors and political activists cycled the English countryside from Dover to London in order to reach this conference, informing the public on their way about the dangers of nuclear weapons, holding Target X installations and meeting with mayors and media on the way.

The reason for this tour was the decision of the British parliament to renew their nuclear weapons program. Total expenses in the next thirty years including production, transport, security and maintenance of nuclear weapons will likely reach up to **£70 billion**. As doctors and medical students, we felt that this money would be better spent on education, health care, meeting development targets and improving social security. According to the World Court, nuclear weapons are illegal weapons of mass destruction. They are targeted primarily at the civilian population, at cities and are not to be used again after the horrible effects of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. However, Britain is maintaining its 200 nuclear warheads, patrolling the world seas on its four vanguard submarines - each one with more firepower than hundreds of **Hiroshima bombs**.



The Nobel Peace Organization **International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear**

## Suggested Classroom Activities

### IPPNW

#### Vocabulary

1. Cold war
2. Consequences
3. Cardiologist
4. IPPNW
5. L70 billion
6. Hiroshima

#### Comprehension Questions

- a. What does IPPNW stand for?
- b. Who had the idea to start the IPPNW?
- c. How did these two Doctors know each other?
- d. What kind of Doctors were they?
- e. What are the 4 Points?
- f. Why did a group of IPPNW do a bike ride in the fall of 2007?
- g. How does what happened at Hiroshima in the second world war affect how the IPPNW feel about nuclear war?

#### Activities:

**Read: One Thousand Paper Cranes: The Story of Sadako and the Children's Peace Statue** ...either in part or entirely. This book shows the effects of nuclear war on one girl.

**Watch:** In 1994 students at Centennial Elementary School created a peace Pledge and a Peace Garden. Watch [the video](#) about this. Why did they do this? How did they think it would help their school? Is this something your school could do?

**Research:** Many countries have nuclear arms. Find out which ones do and map them on the globe.

**Action/ Technology:** Make posters or web pages to educate your school about nuclear war. What are some alternatives to settling arguments with weapons?

**Action:** Write a letter to your Congress Person. Ask them how they feel about the IPPNW and their work.

**Action:** collect pennies for the IPPNW. Go to their [web site](#) to find out about their fundraising projects

Resources:

One Thousand Paper Cranes: The Story of Sadako and the Children's Peace Statue (Mass Market Paperback) by [Takayuki Ishii](#) (Author)

“Between 1941 and 1945, Japan was involved in the Second World War, a conflagration that engulfed most of the world...” ([more](#))

<http://www.ippnw.org/>

<http://www.ippnw-students.org/>

[http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates/1985/](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1985/)