

THE US MUST STRICTLY OBEY INTERNATIONAL LAW

By Richard Duffee

We are now the largest cause of volatility in world affairs. Since World War II we have been responsible, directly or indirectly, for more deaths than all other nations combined. The loss of years of human life accountable to our government seems to be in the range of 2 to 6 billion years, but the potential for loss of life in the future is far greater; so long as we do not disarm, it can reach the range of the first priority. Therefore, until disarmament takes place, this fourth priority should be regarded as part of the first.

When Truman signed the UN Charter we became third-party beneficiaries of a right to have a government that obeys international law. The UN Charter does not allow the use of force for “pre-emptive defense” or “regime change”, and our government acts in bad faith when it advocates either as a rationale for aggression. We must become trustworthy to the rest of the world. We should do this by signing, ratifying, observing, and enforcing all outstanding human rights conventions, including the charter of the International Criminal Court. We should abolish all covert action by the CIA or any of the five dozen other agencies our government has authorized to spy. We should ban US corporations from trading arms internationally.