

The Peace Alliance

Campaigning for a U.S. Department of Peace

DEPARTMENT OF PEACE KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The primary function of a United States Department of Peace will be to research, facilitate, and articulate nonviolent solutions to domestic and international conflict

The Urgent Need for a Department of Peace

- International violence
 - Nuclear proliferation creates critical need for the interruption of current cycles of violence
 - Nuclear arsenals -- those both friendly and hostile to the United States -- are susceptible to terrorist attack or theft
- Domestic violence
 - Criminal and domestic violence places intense financial pressure on city, county, and state government budgets
 - Example: 80% of all police runs in the City of Detroit are in response to domestic violence

Addressing Causal Issues

- Current policy-making tends toward reactive, not proactive approaches to violence reduction
- Traditional political problem-solving focuses primarily on addressing *symptoms* of violence, such as imprisonment of offenders and engagement in armed conflict
- Suppression of symptoms should be augmented by stronger preventative measures and treatment of root causes of violence
- The United States should be as effective in addressing the sources of violence as we are effective in addressing its symptoms

We Need a Dept. of Peace ...

- To reduce domestic and international violence
- To gather and coordinate information and recommendations from America's peace community
- To teach violence prevention and mediation to America's school children
- To effectively treat and dismantle gang psychology
- To rehabilitate the prison population
- To build peace-making efforts among conflicting cultures both here and abroad
- To support our military with complementary approaches to ending violence

Proposed Federal Legislation to Establish a U.S. Department of Peace

- Bill was introduced into the U. S. House of Representatives during the 107th, 108th, 109th and 110th Congress. Current bill number is H.R. 808 with over 62 co-sponsors.
- Proposed legislation calls for the Department's budget to be just 1% of U.S. discretionary budget.

The Benefits: International

The Department of Peace will:

- Advise the President, the Secretaries of Defense and State, and others on root causes of violence, plus practical ways to dismantle violence while still in a formative phase
- Support the military by:
 - Providing cultural, ethnic and psychologically insightful information, education and technology
 - Offering practical skills (conflict resolution techniques, and the like) for the amelioration of violence among adversarial factions
 - Administer the training and support of civilian peacekeepers to participate in multinational nonviolent peace forces

The Benefits: Domestic

The Department of Peace will:

- Develop field-tested educational programs promoting conflict-resolution and peer mediation among school-age children
- Provide violence-prevention programs addressing domestic violence, gang violence, drug and alcohol-related violence, and the like
- Provide much-needed assistance for the efforts of city, county, and state governments in coordinating existing programs in their own communities, as well as programs newly developed and provided by the Dept. of Peace

Responsibilities of the Secretary of Peace

- In addition to leading the Department, the Secretary shall:
 - Provide the President with statistically-verified recommendations on how a specific policy either increases or diminishes the prospect of domestic and international peace
 - Provide the President with recommendations regarding the social and financial impact of domestic and international policies

A U.S. Peace Academy

- The Department of Peace will create and administer a U.S. Peace Academy, acting as a sister organization to the U.S. Military Academy
- The Academy will research and teach the most cutting-edge techniques for the amelioration of violence among domestic and international populations
- The Peace Academy will join the Military Academy in providing assistance to the military in international conflict-resolution
- The Peace Academy faculty will be derived from well-established practitioners known for best practices in the field of conflict reduction and resolution

Growing support

- **Grassroots Efforts Support the Department of Peace Legislation**
 - Department of Peace activist groups exist in all 50 states and over 280 Congressional Districts!

For More Information, Contact:

The Peace Alliance

PO Box 70095

Rochester Hills, MI 48307

Tel & fax 248.813.8950

www.ThePeaceAlliance.org

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF PEACE & NONVIOLENCE
LEGISLATION – H.R. 808**

68 CONGRESSIONAL CO-SPONSORS

AS OF 12/01/07

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Rep. Abercrombie, Neil [HI-01-D] | ✓ Rep. Lee, Barbara [CA-09-D] |
| Rep. Andrews, Robert E. [NJ-01-D] | Rep. Lewis, John [GA-05-D] |
| Rep. Baldwin, Tammy [WI-02-D] | Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [NY-14-D] |
| Rep. Boswell, Leonard L. [IA-03-D] | Rep. Markey, Edward J. [MA-7-D] |
| Rep. Brown, Corrine [FL-03-D] | Rep. McCollum, Betty [MN-04-D] |
| Rep. Carson, Julia [IN-07-D] | Rep. McDermott, Jim [WA-07-D] |
| Rep. Clay, Wm. Lacy [MO-01-D] | Rep. McGovern, James P. [MA-03-D] |
| Rep. Cleaver, Emanuel [MO-05-D] | Rep. McNulty, Michael R. [NY-21-D] |
| Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [MI-14-D] | Rep. Meeks, Gregory W. [NY-06-D] |
| Rep. Cummings, Elijah E. [MD-07-D] | ✓ Rep. Miller, George [CA-07-D] |
| Rep. Davis, Danny K. [IL-07-D] | Rep. Moore, Gwen [WI-04-D] |
| Rep. Davis, Susan A. [CA-53-D] | Rep. Moran, James P. [VA-08-D] |
| Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [OR-04-D] | Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [NY-08-D] |
| Rep. Ellison, Keith [MN-05-D] | Rep. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [DC-D] |
| Rep. Farr, Sam [CA-17-D] | Rep. Oberstar, James L. [MN-08-D] |
| Rep. Fattah, Chaka [PA-02-D] | Rep. Olver, John W. [MA-01-D] |
| Rep. Filner, Bob [CA-51-D] | Rep. Payne, Donald M. [NJ-10-D] |
| Rep. Green, Al [TX-09-D] | Rep. Rahall, Nick J., II [WV-03-D] |
| Rep. Grijalva, Raul M. [AZ-07-D] | Rep. Rangel, Charles B. [NY-15-D] |
| Rep. Gutierrez, Luis V. [IL-04-D] | Rep. Rothman, Steven R. [NJ-09-D] |
| Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [FL-23-D] | Rep. Ryan, Tim [OH-17-D] |
| Rep. Hinchey, Maurice [NY-22-D] | Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [IL-09-D] |
| Rep. Hirono, Mazie K. [HI-02-D] | Rep. Scott, Robert C. [VA-03-D] |
| Rep. Holt, Rush D. [NJ-12-D] | Rep. Serrano, Jose E. [NY-16-D] |
| Rep. Honda, Michael M. [CA-15-D] | Rep. Sherman, Brad [CA-27-D] |
| Rep. Jackson, Jesse L., Jr. [IL-02-D] | ✓ Rep. Stark, Pete [CA-13-D] |
| Rep. Jackson-Lee, Sheila [TX-18-D] | ✓ Rep. Tauscher, Ellen O. [CA-10-D] |
| Rep. Johnson, Henry C. Jr. [GA-04-D] | Rep. Towns, Edolphus [NY-10-D] |
| Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [TX-30-D] | Rep. Tubbs-Jones, Stephanie [OH-11-D] |
| Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [OH-09-D] | Rep. Waters, Maxine [CA-35-D] |
| Rep. Kildee, Dale E. [MI-05-D] | Rep. Watson, Diane E. [CA-33-D] |
| Rep. Kilpatrick, Carolyn C. [MI-13-D] | Rep. Woolsey, Lynn C. [CA-6-D] |
| Rep. Kucinich, Dennis [OH-10-D] | Rep. Wu, David [OR-01-D] |
| Rep. Larson, John B. [CT-01-D] | Rep. Wynn, Albert Russell [MD-04-D] |



The Peace Alliance
Campaigning for a U.S. Department of Peace

Organizational Endorsements
U.S. Department of Peace Legislation

Amnesty International

American Muslim Voices

American Voices Abroad

Buddhist Peace Fellowship

Brahma Kumaris

Center for Nonviolent Communications

Communities of Peace Foundation

Fellowship of Reconciliation -FOR

Global Exchange

Global Youth Action Network

Humanity In Unity

Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy

**National Organization for Women
(N.O.W.)**

Network of Spiritual Progressives

Pace e Bene

Pathways to Peace

Pax Christi USA

Peace Action

Physicians for Social Responsibility

**September Eleventh Families
for Peaceful Tomorrows**

School Mediation Center

Share International

Tikkun

United Religions Initiative - URI

Veterans for Peace

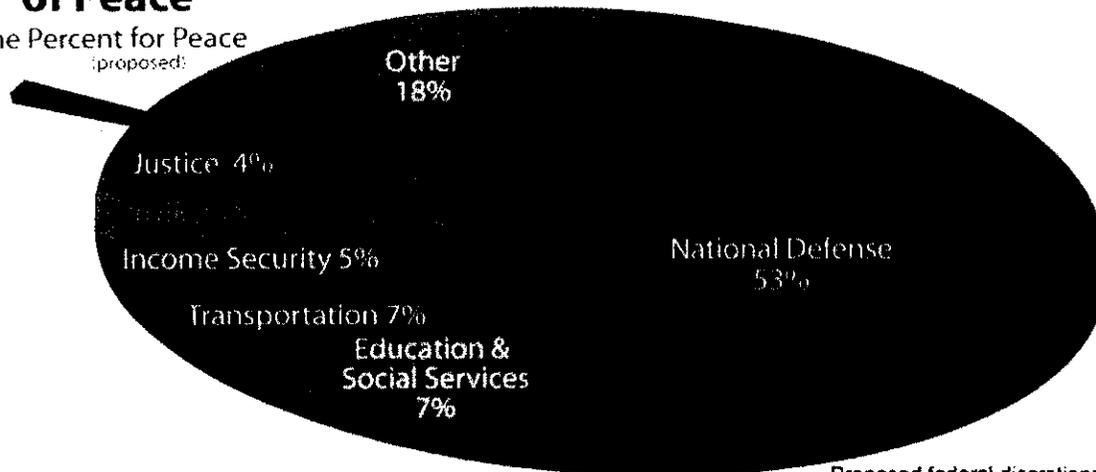
Wholistic Peace Institute

YES! - Youth for Environmental Sanity

And more...

Department of Peace

One Percent for Peace
(proposed)



Proposed federal discretionary
budget, FY 2008*

Peace wants a Piece of the Pie

Support the Establishment of a United States Department of Peace

Legislation to establish a cabinet-level Department of Peace and Nonviolence is currently before the House of Representatives (HR 808). On May 11, 2007, in honor of Mother's Day, citizens across the nation are bringing pies to their Congressional offices to talk about the Department of Peace legislation, and to let their leaders know that "Peace Wants a Piece of the Pie!"

We encourage you to support this landmark measure, which will augment our current problem-solving options, providing practical, nonviolent solutions to the problems of domestic and international conflict.

While current policy-making tends toward reactive rather than proactive approaches to violence reduction, this legislation creates an institutional platform for the burgeoning science of peacebuilding. It supports the United States in being as effective at addressing the sources of violence as we are at addressing its symptoms.

Domestically, the Department of Peace will develop policies and allocate resources to effectively reduce the levels of domestic and gang violence, child abuse, school violence, and various other forms of societal discord. Internationally, the Department will advise the President and Congress on the most sophisticated ideas and techniques regarding peace-creation among nations.

For more information on this legislation and our campaign, please visit
The Peace Alliance website at www.ThePeaceAlliance.org

* Pie Chart Source: The White House Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, Historical Tables, Table 8.7—Outlays for Discretionary Spending, 1962-2008. Budget numbers are estimates. Chart does not include additional mandatory outlays (e.g., Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Interest on Debt), which typically represent about half of the total federal budget.

During the 20th Century, over 100 million people lost their lives to war – most of whom were non-combatants. Now, at the dawn of the 21st century, the extent and current speed of nuclear proliferation makes the achievement of nonviolent alternatives to war the most urgent need of the human race.

From the growing rate of domestic incarceration to increasing problems of international violence, the United States has no more serious problem in our midst than the problem of violence itself. Prison-building is our largest urban industry, and we spend over 400 billion dollars a year on military-related expenditures. Yet there is within the workings of the U.S. government, no platform from which to seriously wage peace. We place little institutional heft behind an effort to address the causal issues of violence, diminishing its psychological force before it erupts into material conflict. From child abuse to genocide, from the murder of one to the slaughter of thousands, it is increasingly senseless to merely wait until violence has erupted before addressing the deeper well from which it springs.

The problem of violence is a many layered one, and its solution will be, as well. While no one action – governmental or otherwise – will provide a single solution to such an entrenched and deeply rooted problem, we must treat the problem itself as an all-systems breakdown requiring an all-systems response.

The campaign to establish a U.S. Department of Peace (House Resolution 808) is only one aspect of a fundamental response to the problem of violence, but it is critical. It represents an important collective effort, as American citizens, to do everything we possibly can to save the world for our children's children.

More than an end to war,
we want an end to the beginnings of all war.

– Franklin Roosevelt



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Mahatma Gandhi



Susan B. Anthony

It's our turn now...

Throughout America, there are countless peace-builders and peace-building projects. Those skilled in ameliorating the effects of violence – from conflict resolution experts to nonviolent communicators – have proven their effectiveness at treating root causes of violence. Peace is more than the absence of war; it is a positive state of being predicated on the presence of a peaceful heart. The mission of the Peace Alliance is to move this realization from the margins of our political dialogue to its rightful, central place within our national understanding. The humanitarian impulse to foster brotherhood and justice is not just an utopian ideal; it is an issue critical to our national security.

Domestically, the Department of Peace will develop policies and allocate resources to effectively reduce the levels of domestic and gang violence, child abuse, and various other forms of societal discord. Internationally, the Department will advise the President and Congress on the most sophisticated ideas and techniques regarding peace-creation among nations.

The Peace Alliance educates and inspires thousands throughout the country with the knowledge, skill and enthusiasm to become powerful citizen activists on behalf of the Department of Peace legislation. Our campaign has citizen organizers working in all 50 states. Local activists are mobilizing a mighty wave of momentum by working with their members of congress, writing editorials, doing local radio and TV interviews, organizing local talks and trainings, getting city council endorsements, visiting with Police Chiefs, Fire Chiefs, Military Officials, Prison Officials, Directors of Abuse Shelters, School Boards, etc., to share and discuss how a Department of Peace would benefit their community.

Please visit our website to learn how you can help,
at www.ThePeaceAlliance.org

Take action now!

Contact your members of U.S. Congress (one Representative in the House and two Senators). To identify your members, visit www.congress.org. Call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121, and ask for your member's office. Tell the staffer who answers that you're a constituent and you want your member to support the Department of Peace legislation. For more detailed guidance on what to say, and for further action steps, visit www.ThePeaceAlliance.org

House bill number: HR 808

(No bill currently in Senate, call and urge your Senators to introduce the legislation!)



Supporters and councilmembers celebrating passage of Chicago City Council resolution endorsing Department of Peace.

Invest In Peace

No great social achievement – from abolition to women's suffrage to civil rights – has succeeded without financial support. For citizen outreach to conference planning to organization and training, your contribution is greatly needed. The Peace Alliance is turning a minimum of dollars into maximum effect.

Become a Peace Alliance Partner: a sustaining monthly or quarterly donor. By making even small, regular contributions, you can help ensure we have a stable, predictable revenue base to fund our operations. With a thousand people donating \$20 dollars a month, we can greatly increase our effectiveness around the country and in Washington, D.C. If you are not already a monthly donor, please become one now. One-time donations are also gratefully accepted. See next page for more information on how to contribute.

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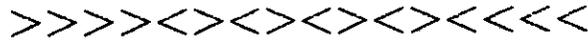
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*Campaign to Establish A
United States Department of Peace
And Nonviolence*



December 7, 2007

Mara Duncan, Brian Johns,
Dirk Larsen, Allan Maris,
Margie Marks, Dijnee Tamang,
Peggy Thomsen,
Social and Economic Justice Commission
City of Albany
1000 San Pablo Avenue
Albany, CA 94706

Re: United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence

To City of Albany Social and Economic Justice Commission Members:

On February 5, 2007, House Bill 808 was introduced in the United States House of Representatives to create a United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence. This legislation will establish a cabinet-level department that will address domestic and international conflict resolution and will give peace-building a place, voice and budget at the highest levels of government.

This legislation will benefit our nation and the City of Albany by holding peace as an organizing principle for our society, and by providing adequate funding for peace-building initiatives that aim to change our culture of disrespect and violence towards a culture of respect and nonviolence. A United States Department of Peace and Nonviolence will benefit the City of Albany by supporting existing programs and developing new programs to address and reduce the number and frequency of incidents related to domestic violence, child and spousal abuse, school violence and other types of domestic violence.

We encourage you to support establishment of a United States Department of Peace and to recommend that the Albany City Council pass a resolution in support of this historic legislation.

For additional information, please see the following enclosed documents and articles:

- Draft Resolution/ City of Albany
- House Resolution 808 Calling for Establishment of a U.S. Department of Peace
- Department of Peace Key Highlights
- Endorsing Government Entities
- Endorsing Congress Members
- Endorsing Organizations
- Peace Wants A Piece of the Pie
- Walter Cronkite, *A Department of Peace?*
- Robert C. Kochler, *What's So Scary About a Department of Peace?*
- Congressman Jim McDermott, *Give Department of Peace a Chance*
- Marianne Williamson, *Waging Peace*
- Peace Alliance Brochure
- One Dream Can Change Everything Postcard
- Will Work For/ DoPeace Postcard

Thank you for considering this important legislation.

Walk in peace,

Nancy Merritt

Nancy Merritt,
Northern California State Co-coordinator
Campaign to Establish A U.S. Department of Peace

surmnatin@aol.com
510-237-9663

ONE DREAM CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING
For further information, see www.thepeacealliance.org

110th CONGRESS
1st Session
H. R. 808

To establish a Department of Peace and Nonviolence.
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 5, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH (for himself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. CARSON, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WATSON, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WU, and Mr. WYNN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Judiciary, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a Department of Peace and Nonviolence.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in
Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Short Title- This Act may be cited as the 'Department of Peace and Nonviolence Act'.

(b) Table of Contents- The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

TITLE I--ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE

Sec. 101. Establishment of Department of Peace and Nonviolence.

Sec. 102. Responsibilities and powers.

Sec. 103. Principal officers.

Sec. 104. Office of Peace Education and Training.

Sec. 105. Office of Domestic Peace Activities.

Sec. 106. Office of International Peace Activities.

Sec. 107. Office of Technology for Peace.

Sec. 108. Office of Arms Control and Disarmament.

Sec. 109. Office of Peaceful Coexistence and Nonviolent Conflict Resolution.

Sec. 110. Office of Human Rights and Economic Rights.

Sec. 111. Intergovernmental Advisory Council on Peace and Nonviolence.

Sec. 112. Consultation required.

Sec. 113. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II--ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS AND TRANSFERS OF AGENCY FUNCTIONS

Sec. 201. Staff.

Sec. 202. Transfers.

Sec. 203. Conforming amendments.

TITLE III--FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE

Sec. 301. Federal Interagency Committee on Peace and Nonviolence.

TITLE IV--ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE DAY

Sec. 401. Peace Day.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress unanimously declared the independence of the 13 colonies, and the achievement of peace was recognized as one of the highest duties of the new organization of free and independent States.

(2) In declaring, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness', the drafters of the Declaration of Independence, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World, derived the creative cause of nationhood from 'the Laws of Nature' and the entitlements of 'Nature's God', such literal referrals in the Declaration of Independence thereby serving to celebrate the unity of human thought, natural law, and spiritual causation.

(3) The architects of the Declaration of Independence 'with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence' spoke to the connection between the original work infusing principle into the structure of a democratic government seeking to elevate the condition of humanity, and the activity of a higher power which moves to guide the Nation's fortune.

(4) The Constitution of the United States of America, in its Preamble, further sets forth the insurance of the cause of peace in stating: 'We the People of the United States, in Order to Form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.'

(5) The Founders of this country gave America a vision of freedom for the ages and provided people with a document which gave this Nation the ability to adapt to an undreamed of future.

(6) It is the sacred duty of the people of the United States to receive the living truths of our founding documents and to think anew to develop institutions that permit the unfolding of the highest moral principles in this Nation and around the world.

(7) During the course of the 20th century, more than 100,000,000 people perished in wars, and now, at the dawn of the 21st century, violence seems to be an overarching theme in the world, encompassing personal, group, national, and international conflict, extending to the production of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons of mass destruction which have been developed for use on land, air, sea, and in space.

(8) Such conflict is often taken as a reflection of the human condition without questioning whether the structures of thought, word, and deed which the people of the United States have inherited are any longer sufficient for the maintenance, growth, and survival of the United States and the world.

(9) Promoting a culture of peace has been recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) through passage of a resolution declaring an International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children 2001-2010. The objective is to further strengthen the global movement for a culture of peace following the observance of the International Year for the Culture of Peace in 2000.

(10) We are in a new millennium, and the time has come to review age-old challenges with new thinking wherein we can conceive of peace as not simply being the absence of violence, but the active presence of the capacity for a higher evolution of the human awareness, of respect, trust, and integrity; wherein we all may tap the infinite capabilities of humanity to transform consciousness and conditions which impel or compel violence at a personal, group, or national level toward developing a new understanding of, and a commitment to, compassion and love, in order to create a 'shining city on a hill', the light of which is the light of nations.

TITLE I--ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE

SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE.

(a) Establishment- There is hereby established a Department of Peace and Nonviolence (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the 'Department'), which shall--

(1) be a cabinet-level department in the executive branch of the Federal Government; and

(2) be dedicated to peacemaking and the study of conditions that are conducive to both domestic and international peace.

(b) Secretary of Peace and Nonviolence- There shall be at the head of the Department a Secretary of Peace and Nonviolence (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the 'Secretary'), who shall be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(c) Mission- The Department shall--

(1) hold peace as an organizing principle, coordinating service to every level of

American society;

(2) endeavor to promote justice and democratic principles to expand human rights;

(3) strengthen nonmilitary means of peacemaking;

(4) promote the development of human potential;

(5) work to create peace, prevent violence, divert from armed conflict, use field-tested programs, and develop new structures in nonviolent dispute resolution;

(6) take a proactive, strategic approach in the development of policies that promote national and international conflict prevention, nonviolent intervention, mediation, peaceful resolution of conflict, and structured mediation of conflict;

(7) address matters both domestic and international in scope; and

(8) encourage the development of initiatives from local communities, religious groups, and nongovernmental organizations.

SEC. 102. RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS.

(a) In General- The Secretary shall--

(1) work proactively and interactively with each branch of the Federal Government on all policy matters relating to conditions of peace;

(2) serve as a delegate to the National Security Council;

(3) call on the intellectual and spiritual wealth of the people of the United States and seek participation in its administration and in its development of policy from private, public, and nongovernmental organizations; and

(4) monitor and analyze causative principles of conflict and make policy recommendations for developing and maintaining peaceful conduct.

(b) Domestic Responsibilities- The Secretary shall--

(1) develop policies that address domestic violence, including spousal abuse, child abuse, and mistreatment of the elderly;

(2) create new policies and incorporate existing programs that reduce drug and alcohol abuse;

(3) develop new policies and incorporate existing policies regarding crime, punishment, and rehabilitation;

(4) develop policies to address violence against animals;

(5) analyze existing policies, employ successful, field-tested programs, and develop new approaches for dealing with the implements of violence, including gun-related violence and the overwhelming presence of handguns;

(6) develop new programs that relate to the societal challenges of school violence, gangs, racial or ethnic violence, violence against gays and lesbians, and police-community relations disputes;

(7) make policy recommendations to the Attorney General regarding civil rights and labor law;

(8) assist in the establishment and funding of community-based violence prevention programs, including violence prevention counseling and peer mediation in schools;

(9) counsel and advocate on behalf of women victimized by violence;

(10) provide for public education programs and counseling strategies concerning hate crimes;

(11) promote racial, religious, and ethnic tolerance;

(12) finance local community initiatives that can draw on neighborhood resources to create and thereby inform and inspire national policy; and

(13) provide ethical-based and value-based analyses to the Department of Defense.

(c) International Responsibilities- The Secretary shall--

(1) advise the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State on all matters relating to national security, including the protection of human rights and the prevention of, amelioration of, and de-escalation of unarmed and armed international conflict;

(2) provide for the training of all United States personnel who administer postconflict reconstruction and demobilization in war-torn societies;

(3) sponsor country and regional conflict prevention and dispute resolution.

initiatives, create special task forces, and draw on local, regional, and national expertise to develop plans and programs for addressing the root sources of conflict in troubled areas;

(4) provide for exchanges between the United States and other nations of individuals who endeavor to develop domestic and international peace-based initiatives;

(5) encourage the development of international sister city programs, pairing United States cities with cities around the globe for artistic, cultural, economic, educational, and faith-based exchanges;

(6) administer the training of civilian peacekeepers who participate in multinational nonviolent police forces and support civilian police who participate in peacekeeping;

(7) jointly with the Secretary of the Treasury, strengthen peace enforcement through hiring and training monitors and investigators to help with the enforcement of international arms embargoes;

(8) facilitate the development of peace summits at which parties to a conflict may gather under carefully prepared conditions to promote nonviolent communication and mutually beneficial solutions;

(9) submit to the President recommendations for reductions in weapons of mass destruction, and make annual reports to the President on the sale of arms from the United States to other nations, with analysis of the impact of such sales on the defense of the United States and how such sales affect peace;

(10) in consultation with the Secretary of State, develop strategies for sustainability and management of the distribution of international funds; and

(11) advise the United States Ambassador to the United Nations on matters pertaining to the United Nations Security Council.

(d) **Human Security Responsibilities-** The Secretary shall address and offer nonviolent conflict resolution strategies to all relevant parties on issues of human security if such security is threatened by conflict, whether such conflict is geographic, religious, ethnic, racial, or class-based in its origin; derives from economic concerns (including trade or maldistribution of wealth), or is initiated through disputes concerning scarcity of natural resources (such as water and energy resources), food, trade, or environmental concerns.

(e) **Media-Related Responsibilities-** Respecting the first amendment of the Constitution of the United States and the requirement for free and independent media,

the Secretary shall--

(1) seek assistance in the design and implementation of nonviolent policies from media professionals;

(2) study the role of the media in the escalation and de-escalation of conflict at domestic and international levels and make findings public; and

(3) make recommendations to professional media organizations in order to provide opportunities to increase media awareness of peace-building initiatives.

(f) Educational Responsibilities- The Secretary shall--

(1) develop a peace education curriculum, which shall include studies of--

(A) the civil rights movement in the United States and throughout the world, with special emphasis on how individual endeavor and involvement have contributed to advancements in peace and justice; and

(B) peace agreements and circumstances in which peaceful intervention has worked to stop conflict;

(2) in cooperation with the Secretary of Education--

(A) commission the development of such curricula and make such curricula available to local school districts to enable the utilization of peace education objectives at all elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

(B) offer incentives in the form of grants and training to encourage the development of State peace curricula and assist schools in applying for such curricula;

(3) work with educators to equip students to become skilled in achieving peace through reflection, and facilitate instruction in the ways of peaceful conflict resolution;

(4) maintain a site on the Internet for the purposes of soliciting and receiving ideas for the development of peace from the wealth of political, social and cultural diversity;

(5) proactively engage the critical thinking capabilities of grade school, high school, and college students and teachers through the Internet and other media and issue periodic reports concerning submissions;

(6) create and establish a Peace Academy, which shall--

(A) be modeled after the military service academies;

(B) provide a 4-year course of instruction in peace education, after which graduates will be required to serve 5 years in public service in programs dedicated to domestic or international nonviolent conflict resolution; and

(7) provide grants for peace studies departments in colleges and universities throughout the United States.

SEC. 103. PRINCIPAL OFFICERS.

(a) Under Secretary of Peace and Nonviolence- There shall be in the Department an Under Secretary of Peace and Nonviolence, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. During the absence or disability of the Secretary, or in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Secretary, the Under Secretary shall act as Secretary. The Secretary shall designate the order in which other officials of the Department shall act for and perform the functions of the Secretary during the absence or disability of both the Secretary and Under Secretary or in the event of vacancies in both of those offices.

(b) Additional Positions- (1) There shall be in the Department--

(A) an Assistant Secretary for Peace Education and Training;

(B) an Assistant Secretary for Domestic Peace Activities;

(C) an Assistant Secretary for International Peace Activities;

(D) an Assistant Secretary for Technology for Peace;

(E) an Assistant Secretary for Arms Control and Disarmament;

(F) an Assistant Secretary for Peaceful Coexistence and Nonviolent Conflict Resolution;

(G) an Assistant Secretary for Human and Economic Rights; and

(H) a General Counsel.

(2) Each of the Assistant Secretaries and the General Counsel shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(3) There shall be in the Department an Inspector General, who shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions in the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(4) There shall be in the Department four additional officers who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The officers appointed under this paragraph shall perform such functions as the Secretary shall prescribe, including--

(A) congressional relations functions;

(B) public information functions, including providing, through the use of the latest technologies, useful information about peace and the work of the Department;

(C) management and budget functions; and

(D) planning, evaluation, and policy development functions, including development of policies to promote the efficient and coordinated administration of the Department and its programs and encourage improvements in conflict resolution and violence prevention.

(5) In any case in which the President submits the name of an individual to the Senate for confirmation as an officer of the Department under this subsection, the President shall state the particular functions of the Department such individual will exercise upon taking office.

(c) Authority of Secretary- Each officer described in this section shall report directly to the Secretary and shall, in addition to any functions vested in or required to be delegated to such officer, perform such additional functions as the Secretary may prescribe.

SEC. 104. OFFICE OF PEACE EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

(a) In General- There shall be in the Department an Office of Peace Education and Training, the head of which shall be the Assistant Secretary for Peace Education and Training. The Assistant Secretary for Peace Education and Training shall carry out those functions of the Department relating to the creation, encouragement, and impact of peace education and training at the elementary, secondary, university, and postgraduate levels, including the development of a Peace Academy.

(b) Peace Curriculum- The Assistant Secretary of Peace Education and Training, in cooperation with the Secretary of Education, shall develop a peace curriculum and supporting materials for distribution to departments of education in each State and territory of the United States. The peace curriculum shall include the building of communicative peace skills, nonviolent conflict resolution skills, and other objectives to increase the knowledge of peace processes.

(c) Grants- The Assistant Secretary of Peace Education and Training shall--

(1) provide peace education grants to colleges and universities for the creation and expansion of peace studies departments; and

(2) create a Community Peace Block Grant program under which grants shall be provided to not-for-profit community and nongovernmental organizations for the purposes of developing creative, innovative neighborhood programs for nonviolent conflict resolution and local peacebuilding initiatives.

SEC. 105. OFFICE OF DOMESTIC PEACE ACTIVITIES.

(a) In General- There shall be in the Department an Office of Domestic Peace Activities, the head of which shall be the Assistant Secretary for Domestic Peace Activities. The Assistant Secretary for Domestic Peace Activities shall carry out those functions in the Department affecting domestic peace activities, including the development of policies that increase awareness about intervention and counseling on domestic violence and conflict.

(b) Responsibilities- The Assistant Secretary for Domestic Peace Activities shall--

(1) develop policy alternatives for the treatment of drug and alcohol abuse;

(2) develop new policies and build on existing programs responsive to the prevention of crime, including the development of community policing strategies and peaceful settlement skills among police and other public safety officers; and

(3) develop community-based strategies for celebrating diversity and promoting tolerance.

SEC. 106. OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE ACTIVITIES.

(a) In General- There shall be in the Department an Office of International Peace Activities, the head of which shall be the Assistant Secretary for International Peace Activities. The Assistant Secretary for International Peace Activities shall carry out those functions in the Department affecting international peace activities and shall be a member of the National Security Council.

(b) Responsibilities- The Assistant Secretary for International Peace Activities shall--

(1) provide for the training and deployment of all Peace Academy graduates and other nonmilitary conflict prevention and peacemaking personnel;

(2) sponsor country and regional conflict prevention and dispute resolution

initiatives in countries experiencing social, political, or economic strife;

(3) advocate the creation of a multinational nonviolent peace force;

(4) provide training for the administration of postconflict reconstruction and demobilization in war-torn societies; and

(5) provide for the exchanges between individuals of the United States and other nations who are endeavoring to develop domestic and international peace-based initiatives.

SEC. 107. OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACE.

(a) In General- There shall be in the Department an Office of Technology for Peace, the head of which shall be the Assistant Secretary of Technology for Peace. The Assistant Secretary of Technology for Peace shall carry out those functions in the Department affecting the awareness, study, and impact of developing new technologies on the creation and maintenance of domestic and international peace.

(b) Grants- The Assistant Secretary of Technology for Peace shall provide grants for the research and development of technologies in transportation, communications, and energy that--

(1) are nonviolent in their application; and

(2) encourage the conservation and sustainability of natural resources in order to prevent future conflicts regarding scarce resources.

SEC. 108. OFFICE OF ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT.

(a) In General- There shall be in the Department an Office of Arms Control and Disarmament, the head of which shall be the Assistant Secretary of Arms Control and Disarmament. The Assistant Secretary of Arms Control and Disarmament shall carry out those functions in the Department affecting arms control programs and arms limitation agreements.

(b) Responsibilities- The Assistant Secretary of Arms Control and Disarmament shall--

(1) advise the Secretary on all interagency discussions and all international negotiations regarding the reduction and elimination of weapons of mass destruction throughout the world, including the dismantling of such weapons and the safe and secure storage of materials related thereto;

(2) assist nations, international agencies and nongovernmental organizations in assessing the locations of the buildup of nuclear arms;

(3) develop nonviolent strategies to deter the testing or use of offensive or defensive nuclear weapons, whether based on land, air, sea, or in outer space;

(4) serve as a depository for copies of all contracts, agreements, and treaties that deal with the reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons or the protection of outer space from militarization; and

(5) provide technical support and legal assistance for the implementation of such agreements.

SEC. 109. OFFICE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND NONVIOLENT CONFLICT RESOLUTION.

(a) In General- There shall be in the Department an Office of Peaceful Coexistence and Nonviolent Conflict Resolution, the head of which shall be the Assistant Secretary for Peaceful Coexistence and Nonviolent Conflict Resolution. The Assistant Secretary for Peaceful Coexistence and Nonviolent Conflict Resolution shall carry out those functions in the Department affecting research and analysis relating to creating, initiating, and modeling approaches to peaceful coexistence and nonviolent conflict resolution.

(b) Responsibilities- The Assistant Secretary for Peaceful Coexistence and Nonviolent Conflict Resolution shall—

(1) study the impact of war, especially on the physical and mental condition of children (using the ten-point agenda in the United Nations Childrens Fund report, State of the World's Children 1996, as a guide), which shall include the study of the effect of war on the environment and public health;

(2) publish a monthly journal of the activities of the Department and encourage scholarly participation;

(3) gather information on effective community peacebuilding activities and disseminate such information to local governments and nongovernmental organizations in the United States and abroad;

(4) research the effect of violence in the media and make such reports available to the Congress annually; and

(5) sponsor conferences throughout the United States to create awareness of

the work of the
Department.

SEC. 110. OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS.

(a) In General- There shall be in the Department an Office of Human Rights and Economic Rights, the head of which shall be the Assistant Secretary for Human Rights and Economic Rights. The Assistant Secretary for Human Rights and Economic Rights shall carry out those functions in the Department supporting the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948.

(b) Responsibilities- The Assistant Secretary for Human Rights and Economic Rights shall--

(1) assist the Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretary of State, in furthering the incorporation of principles of human rights, as enunciated in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 217A (III) of December 10, 1948, into all agreements between the United States and other nations to help reduce the causes of violence;

(2) gather information on and document human rights abuses, both domestically and internationally, and recommend to the Secretary nonviolent responses to correct abuses;

(3) make such findings available to other agencies in order to facilitate nonviolent conflict resolution;

(4) provide trained observers to work with nongovernmental organizations for purposes of creating a climate that is conducive to the respect for human rights;

(5) conduct economic analyses of the scarcity of human and natural resources as a source of conflict and make recommendations to the Secretary for nonviolent prevention of such scarcity, nonviolent intervention in case of such scarcity, and the development of programs of assistance for people experiencing such scarcity, whether due to armed conflict, maldistribution of resources, or natural causes;

(6) assist the Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury, in developing strategies regarding the sustainability and the management of the distribution of funds from international agencies, the conditions regarding the receipt of such funds, and the impact of those conditions on the peace and stability of the recipient nations; and

(7) assist the Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Labor, in developing strategies to promote full compliance with domestic

and international labor rights law.

SEC. 111. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE.

(a) In General- There shall be in the Department an advisory committee to be known as the Intergovernmental Advisory Council on Peace and Nonviolence (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the 'Council'). The Council shall provide assistance and make recommendations to the Secretary and the President concerning intergovernmental policies relating to peace and nonviolent conflict resolution.

(b) Responsibilities- The Council shall--

(1) provide a forum for representatives of Federal, State, and local governments to discuss peace issues;

(2) promote better intergovernmental relations; and

(3) submit, biennially or more frequently if determined necessary by the Council, a report to the Secretary, the President, and the Congress reviewing the impact of Federal peace activities on State and local governments.

SEC. 112. CONSULTATION REQUIRED.

(a) Consultation in Cases of Conflict- (1) In any case in which a conflict between the United States and any other government or entity is imminent or occurring, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall consult with the Secretary concerning nonviolent means of conflict resolution.

(2) In any case in which such a conflict is ongoing or recently concluded, the Secretary shall conduct independent studies of diplomatic initiatives undertaken by the United States and other parties to the conflict.

(3) In any case in which such a conflict has recently concluded, the Secretary shall assess the effectiveness of those initiatives in ending the conflict.

(4) The Secretary shall establish a formal process of consultation in a timely manner with the Secretary of the Department of State and the Secretary of the Department of Defense--

(A) prior to the initiation of any armed conflict between the United States and any other nation; and

(B) for any matter involving the use of Department of Defense personnel within

the United States.

(b) Consultation in Drafting Treaties and Agreements- The executive branch shall consult with the Secretary in drafting treaties and peace agreements.

SEC. 113. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act for a fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act an amount equal to at least 2 percent of the total amount appropriated for that fiscal year for the Department of Defense.

TITLE II--ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS AND TRANSFERS OF AGENCY FUNCTIONS

SEC. 201. STAFF.

The Secretary may appoint and fix the compensation of such employees as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Secretary and the Department. Except as otherwise provided by law, such employees shall be appointed in accordance with the civil service laws and their compensation fixed in accordance with title 5 of the United States Code.

SEC. 202. TRANSFERS.

There are hereby transferred to the Department the functions, assets, and personnel of--

- (1) the Peace Corps;
- (2) the United States Institute of Peace;
- (3) the Office of the Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Affairs of the Department of State;
- (4) the Gang Resistance Education and Training Program of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; and
- (5) the SafeFutures program of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice.

SEC. 203. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall

prepare and submit to Congress proposed legislation containing any necessary and appropriate technical and conforming amendments to the laws of the United States to reflect and carry out the provisions of this Act.

TITLE III--FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE

SEC. 301. FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE.

There is established a Federal Interagency Committee on Peace and Nonviolence (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the 'Committee'). The Committee shall--

(1) assist the Secretary in providing a mechanism to assure that the procedures and actions of the Department and other Federal agencies are fully coordinated; and

(2) study and make recommendations for assuring effective coordination of Federal programs, policies, and administrative practices affecting peace.

TITLE IV--ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE DAY

SEC. 401. PEACE DAY.

All citizens should be encouraged to observe and celebrate the blessings of peace and endeavor to create peace on a Peace Day. Such day shall include discussions of the professional activities and the achievements in the lives of peacemakers. There are several models for such a Peace Day that have been endorsed by Congress and the United Nations.

A Department Of Peace?

By **WALTER CRONKITE**

King Features Syndicate

August 12, 2004

With this nation embroiled in what threatens to be an interminable "War on Terrorism," an idea put forward last year by Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich has, for me, considerable appeal. Kucinich, who was the one candidate in the Democratic primaries to unfailingly promote the party's traditional Franklin Roosevelt liberalism, proposed the establishment of a Department of Peace.

Now he has introduced in the House HR 1673, a bill that would establish a Peace Department, adding a new cabinet post to the executive branch of government. The Department of Peace would "advise the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State on all matters relating to national security, including the protection of human rights and the prevention of, amelioration of, and de-escalation of unarmed and armed international conflict."

The secretary of peace would serve as a delegate to the National Security Council and also would "provide training of all United States personnel who administer post-conflict reconstruction and demobilization in war-torn societies." In other words, the Department of Peace, with a highly trained and dedicated staff, would be a constant, working counterpoint to the Defense Department and its expenditure of billions of dollars to perfect the weapons of war.

The department would act not only in an international context, but also in those areas of domestic policy that endanger the nation's well-being: the proliferation of automatic weapons and the violence in our schools, our homes and in our streets, where the intolerant prey on those whose lifestyles they find offensive. It might well come up with some new strategies for turning around our losing war on drugs, and it might also lobby Congress to put an end to the cruel and unusual punishment of small-time drug offenders called "mandatory sentencing." It would also advise the attorney general on matters of civil rights and labor law. But its primary importance, it seems to me, would be in international affairs, demonstrating to the rest of the world, to borrow the old motto of the Strategic Air Command, that "peace is our profession."

Now, to some, this is going to sound terribly naive, given the current state of things and the very real, hard-edged dangers that face us. But the naiveté just might lie on the other side with those who believe that military force and our policy of pre-emption are alone sufficient to make us safe. The fact is that there is nothing in this proposal that would weaken our military posture or our ability to strike terrorists and their havens and to do whatever is necessary for the defense of the United States.

But wouldn't it be an advantage to have a peer of the secretaries of defense and state whose primary responsibility it was to develop the methods and means of peaceful conflict resolution and to offer peaceful alternatives in the councils of war?

Wouldn't it have been an advantage in the run-up to the Iraq War to have had a cabinet officer whose department was responsible for training U.S. personnel in human rights, conflict resolution, reconstruction and the detailed planning necessary to restoring a durable peace; in short, to do what was so disastrously absent when our forces rolled into Baghdad?

Kucinich's bill is more elaborate and specific than I can spell out here. Right now it is a long way from realization, with only a few dozen congressional sponsors. It needs a lot more to move another step along the legislative process.

Actually, there is an urgency to its adoption. In this dangerous world, where the strength of the United States is needed to keep the peace, we need a visible manifestation of our intention to play that role, without the arrogance that cost us friends and allies among the nations and peoples of the world.

But no matter how far off it might be, it is an idea that deserves our attention. We can hope that Kucinich and those who are pioneers in supporting his bill stay the course and redouble their efforts.

What's so scary about a Department of Peace?

By **ROBERT C. KOEHLER**

Tribune Media Services

October 26, 2006

"While Republicans fight the War on Terror, grow our robust economy, and crack down on illegal immigration, House Democrats plot to establish a Department of Peace, raise your taxes, and minimize penalties for crack dealers. The difference couldn't be starker."

As a contribution to the general noise and ignorance, House Whip Roy Blunt's Web-site politicking is nothing special. Boo! Scared yet? Fear-baiting at election time is standard GOP save-our-keister strategy, but the list of acceptable bogeymen that party leaders parade before the constituency, with inimitable cynicism, is always instructional.

Taxes, check. Crack dealers, check. Department of Peace . . . huh?

Heaping derision on this quiet but potent piece of legislation — H.R. 3760, which now has 74 co-sponsors — may be a miscalculation on Blunt's part, given that most Americans have lost patience with the carnage in Iraq, don't feel safer because of the war on terror and want the country to move in a new direction.

I can understand why Blunt himself would be scared of it — the establishment of a cabinet-level Department of Peace would signal a profound national direction change — but, sadly, I also understand why he sees it as a safe target to mock and misrepresent. The extraordinary notion that violence, like disease, may have causes that can be eradicated — that it is not embedded in human nature and therefore inevitable — isn't in wide circulation yet. It remains barely a pinprick in the national awareness, as manifested by the mainstream media and other outlets of popular culture.

The concept is also dangerous and upsets the powers that be. Violence is not only big business, it permeates the mythology that unites us as a nation. To suggest building a culture of peace, of which a Department of Peace would be one component, no doubt seems like a "plot" to the likes of Blunt — but I'm convinced there is a groundswell of hope for such a culture, indeed, a spiritual hunger for it.

A woman recently wrote to me: "I don't think I've ever felt a deeper level of frustration with the direction this country is going. Honestly though, what do you do? I give to the candidates and important causes, I've gone to marches and rallies, I write letters when necessary but I honestly don't know what to do with the anger, frustration, despair that I feel. I've had this conversation with friends and we talk about it but then agree that we don't 'Do' anything. But what is there to do? What is the best way to get involved?"

How many of us haven't felt such anguish ourselves? There's no simple fix for this sort of frustration, which, though it may be triggered by the Bush presidency, is far more spiritual in

nature than it is political. For all the nation's vaunted self-aggrandizement as the world's oldest democracy, we are not encouraged by the mass media to participate in public life — certainly not at that level.

The Washington Post, for instance, in a story about House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (the story quotes Blunt's laundry list of bogeymen), describes how the California Democrat set about revitalizing her party after its defeat in '04. Did she reach out to the public, tap into the great desire for change afoot in the land or craft a relevant party platform? Well, actually, no.

Instead, the story matter-of-factly notes, "she reached out to advertising executives, Internet moguls and language specialists to ask how Democrats could rise from the ashes and challenge President Bush and the Republicans."

This is the kind of story that ruins my day. The word "participatory" seems to be so thoroughly atrophied at this point that no self-respecting journalist would seriously consider using it as a modifier — much less an amplifier — for "democracy." Yet my anguished letter-writer is groping for precisely this word. That vibrating imperative she expressed, to do something that matters, is nothing less, in my view, than the cry of our inner Gandhi to become the change we want to see happen in the world.

And this brings me back to the Department of Peace, the culture of peace, the idea of peace. If we don't break the cycles of violence that keep hatred and injustice at a constant simmer, our future is limited and stunted. "We need a partner in our government so that peace becomes an organizing principle in this society," said Dot Maver, executive director of The Peace Alliance. That's the value of the movement to establish a Department of Peace, and for those of you, like my correspondent, who want to know where to put your energy, this may be the place.

Peace, as defined by Johan Galtung at transcend.org, is "the capacity to handle conflicts with empathy, nonviolence and creativity." Far from being a "plot" hatched by a cabal of Democrats led by Nancy Pelosi, as Rep. Blunt seems to think it is (if only he were right), peace is a principle, an array of social technologies and, above all, a life commitment demanding every ounce of our strength.

"Our world faces a crisis as yet unperceived by those possessing the power to make great decisions for good and evil. The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking, and thus we drift toward unparalleled catastrophe." — Albert Einstein

Give Department of Peace a Chance

By CONGRESSMAN JIM MCDERMOTT

Seattle Times

February 26, 2007

In a world torn by conflict, I can't think of a better time, or a greater need, for America to act as a force for good at home and around the world.

A bill recently was reintroduced in Congress that will go a long way toward bringing peace both at home and abroad. The measure would create a Cabinet-level Department of Peace.

The proposed department will give voice to the latest research and expertise on peaceful efforts in many areas — from safe schools to international arms control.

The legislation, which I am co-sponsoring, would fund, support and coordinate programs already in existence — in schools, prisons, police departments, educational institutions, charitable organizations and elsewhere — that are proven to reduce domestic and international violence and enhance the security and health of all Americans.

I believe a Department of Peace represents the ideals on which this country was founded. Our legislation, HR 808, embodies the dreams and aspirations of Americans to live in a nation that uses its great strength to support the cooperative efforts of people throughout the world to create peace.

In my years as a congressman and as a physician in the U.S. military, I have recognized repeatedly that the interests of the one cannot triumph over the interests of the many; that the security concerns of the United States are best served by diplomacy and cooperation rather than brute force.

A Department of Peace won't be just another top-heavy bureaucratic organization. Much like the Environmental Protection Agency, it will provide a unifying framework for existing organizations scattered throughout the U.S. currently working to bring peace to our communities and the world.

The department will research, propose and facilitate practical, field-tested solutions to reduce conflict, providing financial and institutional heft to our current ineffectual efforts to deal with all forms of domestic and international violence and discord. And it will help develop curricula to educate students in grades K-12 on how to resolve conflict peacefully.

Internationally, a Department of Peace will advise the president and Congress on the most innovative techniques to establish and promote peace among nations, and will research and analyze the root causes of war to help prevent conflicts from escalating to the point of violence.

It will create a Peace Academy, on par with the Military Service Academies, to train civilian peacekeepers and the military in the latest nonviolent conflict-resolution strategies and approaches. And it will provide a direct voice at the president's table to offer peaceful solutions to conflicts before they disintegrate into violence.

The president's recently proposed federal budget would allocate more than \$439 billion to our military, an increase of more than 5 percent. A Department of Peace will cost a small fraction of that, or approximately \$8 billion a year. That amount is less than we currently spend each month for the war in Iraq.

Clearly, a Department of Peace will be a bargain — and, it will be money well spent. It will save dollars — and, more importantly, it will save lives.

As the globe shrinks, as the peoples and countries of the world become more entwined in both commerce and security, our consciousness has expanded.

I've learned there's something about the human spirit, about the spirit of Americans everywhere, that strives for cooperation rather than domination. We all yearn for peace, and for the prosperity that peace brings. We all yearn for a better world for our children and our children's children. We want for them the best education possible; health care that encompasses and embraces everyone; a retirement secure from the plagues and worries that come with inadequate income and support; a healthy environment; and a world freed from the horrors of war.

By reducing the immense costs of violence both domestically and internationally, a U.S. Department of Peace will help secure these essentials. It will demonstrate to our citizens and to the world that the United States is committed to using its great strength in partnership with all peoples to work for, and champion, peace. And, it will provide a beacon of hope for everyone that the peace we yearn for is not an unachievable dream, but an obtainable reality.

As President Bush correctly noted, Americans are a peace-loving people. Now is the time to put these words into action.

U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Seattle, represents the 7th Congressional District of Washington state.

Waging Peace

By Marianne Williamson

The Boston Globe

November 16, 2006

THE FBI recently reported that the United States is facing a wave of murders and gun violence. Cities across the country are seeing significant increases in violent crime. In Boston, the number of homicides is threatening to eclipse last year's numbers, which were already the worst in a decade. These statistics prove that the current approach to reducing violence isn't working.

In the United States, 12 children each day die from gun violence. Homicide was the second leading cause of death for people ages 10 to 24 in 2001, with rates 10 times that of other leading industrialized nations. In 2005, there were more than 190,000 reported victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assaults. Acts of terrorism worldwide are up since the start of the Iraq war. War itself has killed more than half a million Americans since World War II.

A bill before Congress would establish a US Department of Peace. This measure would provide practical, nonviolent solutions for the problems of domestic and international conflict. It would apply the institutional heft of the US government to a serious effort not merely at avoiding war or waging war more effectively. It would take America to the next evolutionary step: It would proactively wage peace.

The problem of violence is a many layered one, and its solution needs to be as well. . . . While no one action -- governmental or otherwise -- will provide a single solution to such an entrenched and deeply rooted problem, the problem must be treated as an all-systems breakdown that requires an all-systems response.

A Department of Peace would address the causal issues of violence -- from human disenfranchisement to societal dysfunction -- thus saving money and human heartache.

Domestically, the department would develop policies and allocate resources to reduce the levels of domestic and gang violence, child abuse, and various other forms of societal discord. The secretary of peace would work with the secretary of education to develop curriculums to teach students alternative conflict resolution techniques and strategies.

Internationally, the Department of Peace would advise the president and Congress on the most innovative techniques and ideas for peace-creation among nations. A peace academy, on par with the military service academies, would train civilian peacekeepers and work with the military in the latest nonviolent conflict resolution strategies and approaches. In short, a Department of Peace would work hand in hand with existing government agencies and structures to help ensure that conflict, when it occurs, does not boil over into life-destroying behavior.

Last month, President George W. Bush said at a conference of school officials, police officers, and youth advocates that communities need a list of "best practices" to prevent and respond to

the kinds of school attacks that have occurred in recent weeks. "It seems to me, a lot of our attention should be on preventing" such incidents, Bush said. That would require, he said, "a mosaic of programs." The Department of Peace would give structure and design to the mosaic, providing much-needed assistance to city, county, and state governments in coordinating existing programs as well as developing new programs based on best practices nationally.

Throughout America, there are countless peace-builders and peace-building projects. Those skilled in ameliorating the effects of violence -- from conflict resolution experts to nonviolent communicators -- have proven their effectiveness at treating root causes of violence. Yet these programs receive only pennies in comparison to the tremendous costs of violence.

A 2004 World Health Report estimated the cost of interpersonal violence in the United States (excluding war-related costs) at \$300 billion per year. We currently allocate more than \$400 billion per year to the Department of Defense, not including the cost of the war in Iraq. The financial cost alone is enough to motivate many to support this bill, but the human carnage is simply a cost that should never be permitted in a civilized society.

Marianne Williamson is founder and chair of the board of The Peace Alliance.