

July 3, 1985
**Letter, Joan Ruddock and Bruce Kent to
Vice-President of the United States George Bush**

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Summary:

This letter to then Vice-President Bush sets out CND's opposition to the British Government's involvement in the Reagan Administration's Strategic Defense Initiative (popularly known as Star Wars).

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Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

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Vice-President of the United States George Bush
c/o United States Embassy
Grosvenor Square
London W1

3 July 1985

Dear Mr Bush,

We are writing in the hope that, on your return to the United States, you will take with you a correct picture of the breadth and depth of the opposition in this country to the Strategic Defense Initiative.

You will, we hope, be aware that several House of Commons Motions criticising the SDI have received cross-party support, despite the ferocious public relations exercise mounted for SDI here as in other countries. The Government, however, has refused all attempts to have the matter debated in the House.

We are sure you need no reminding of the deep reservations about the SDI expressed by the British Foreign Secretary, and you must be aware that the British Government's support for the programme extends only to the initial research.

Others have expressed their grounds for opposing the SDI - notably that, despite a recent US State Department statement, it would undermine the conditions of mutual deterrence and that it may be in breach of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

For our part, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament finds five reasons for regarding the SDI as a most ill-judged and dangerous programme:

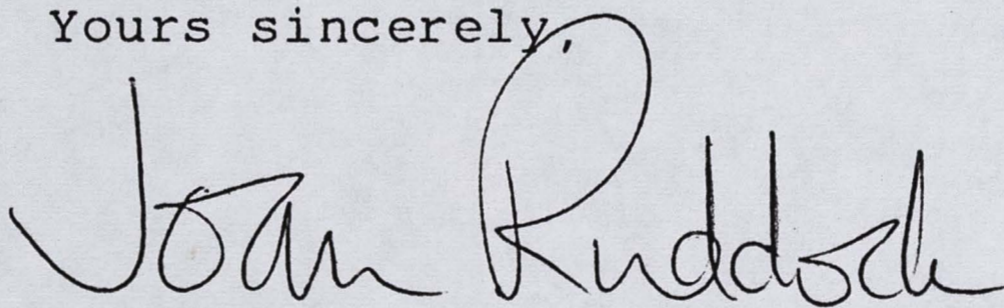
1. A successful SDI programme combined with further development of anti-satellite weapons could make a nuclear first strike possible.

2. The resulting increase in mutual hostility and tension would make a nuclear war more likely, whether by accident or by design, possibly before a strategic defence system was fully in place.
3. It will also unleash a new round of arms escalation as the USSR seeks ways of countering and circumventing such a system.
4. It threatens the bi-lateral Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and the progress of the Geneva arms control talks between the USA and the USSR, which are vital when there are so few agreed restraints on arms build-up.
5. It is a gross waste of resources at a time when 800 million people live in poverty.

We assure you that the USA will gain no credit by proceeding with this enormously dangerous programme, nor by continuing to pressurise its allies into lukewarm statements of support for it against their better judgement.

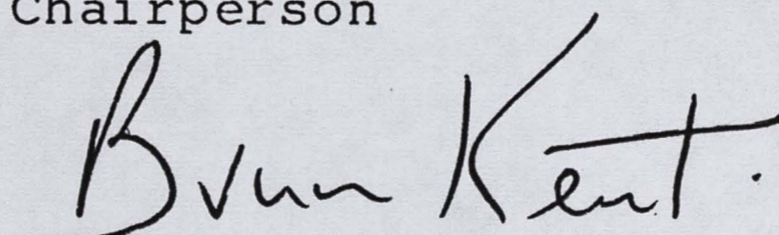
We are doing our best to ensure that the people of Britain are fully informed about the dangers of the SDI. We hope that you will ensure that President Reagan and his advisers are fully informed about the strength of opposition to the SDI in this country.

Yours sincerely,



Joan Ruddock

Chairperson



Bruce Kent

General Secretary