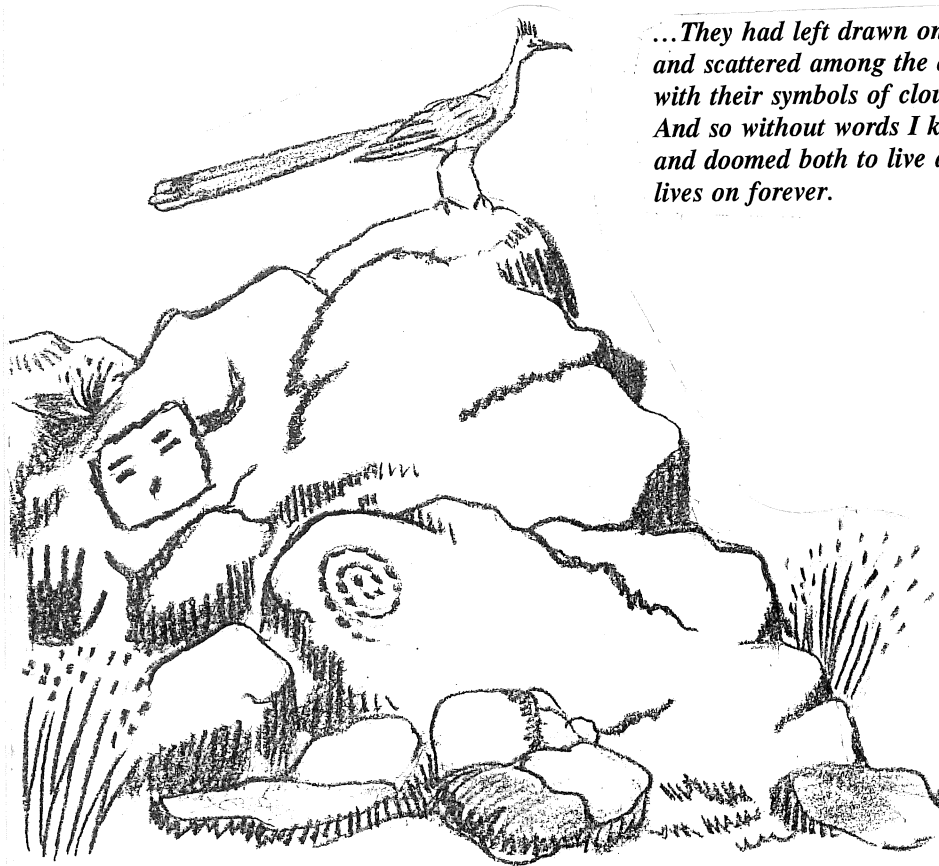


# WELCOME TO NEW MEXICO

## LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

### OR

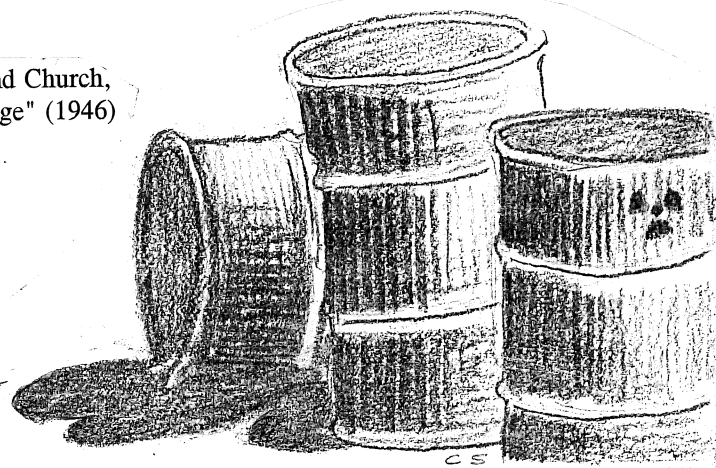
## WORLD CAPITAL OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND WASTE?



*...They had left drawn on the rocks their suns, their serpents,  
and scattered among the dust the broken potsheds  
with their symbols of cloud, of rain, of the eagle flying.  
And so without words I knew that man is mortal  
and doomed both to live and to die, but what he worships  
lives on forever.*

*Today with my own world crumbling toward ruin  
I know this still, and I greet the child who will stand here  
Upon Tshirege and watch the morning blossom  
and feel under her questioning hand the living grasses  
weaving substance of sunlight and the dust of a fallen city.*

-- from Peggy Pond Church,  
"Morning on Tshirege" (1946)



Tshirege is the largest ancient Indian village on the Pajarito Plateau. It is adjacent to "Area G," a nuclear waste dump where the equivalent of one million 55-gallon drums of radioactive waste are stored or buried in shallow graves. The dump contains hundreds of kilograms of plutonium, with a half-life of 24,000 years; a few tens of *micrograms*, if inhaled, will cause death. Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) seeks to greatly expand Area G, bulldozing several small ruins in the process (including a rock-cut kiva). The

extra room is needed for the nuclear waste that is to be created by manufacturing nuclear weapons for our so-called "enduring" arsenal. Much of this waste is, and will be, buried under as little as three feet of sand. To facilitate its manufacturing plans, LANL plans to eventually bring in many more *tons* of plutonium.

Making nuclear weapons is unnecessary at best, as the U.S. has more than 9,000 nuclear weapons, the plutonium components for which won't wear out for decades. More fundamentally, even keeping this huge

arsenal is a direct violation of Article VI of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty of 1970.

The stark contrast of our "civilization" with those who preceded us begs the questions: "Who are we, and what shall we become?" The priorities we are choosing threaten not just our bodies and our environment but our humanity itself. Abraham Lincoln said that if slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong. Cannot the same be said about the continued development and production of nuclear weapons here in New Mexico?

**Are you getting tired of paying for military extravagance at the expense of our children, the environment, and a decent society?** Do you wonder how becoming a factory for weapons of mass destruction and a highway for nuclear waste will harmonize with tourism? Are you uncomfortable with the nuclear future being chosen for this state by our elected representatives? **Then why not talk to them?**

**I am a New Mexico resident.** I would like to join with others to meet with each senator and my congressman and discuss with them the upside-down priorities that fund additional nuclear weapons and other excessive military hardware at the expense of our schools, our environment, our productive economy, and the social programs that help hold our families and society together. Please send me further information and meeting dates. *(Tip: Senators are busy people and it will take a lot of you to bring them to meetings. Ask your friends to help!)*

**I am a visitor to New Mexico.** I didn't know the United States was developing and preparing to produce new kinds of nuclear weapons. I would like further information so I can write my senators and congressperson. *(Tip: writing a short one or two paragraph letter to them is worth far more than a phone call! Getting organizations you belong to--churches, civic clubs, PTA, etc.--or local elected officials to write is even better!)*

**✂ Clip and mail this request to the address below. Be sure and send your name, address, and (if local) your phone number. We do have a choice if we care enough to make one; silence, too, is a choice. Let your voice be heard!**



The Los Alamos Study Group is a non-profit research organization monitoring the activities of the nuclear weapons laboratories, principally Los Alamos, providing information and analyses for decisionmakers and journalists nationally and worldwide. We seek to stop further nuclear weapons development, to mutually reduce and then abolish nuclear arsenals, and to halt the global proliferation of nuclear technologies. Tax-deductible contributions to this ad will be gratefully accepted.

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