

Posted by Joan Russow  
Monday, 23 September 2013 17:55 -

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By John Halam

In a development that's almost as bizarre as it is outrageous, the United States plans to launch a nuclear-capable Minuteman-III missile from Vandenberg Airforce Base in California, to Kwajelien Athol, on what is both the day of the United Nations High-Level-Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament, and the exact 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'The Day the World Nearly Ended', an event of half-past midnight Moscow time in which Colonel Stanislav Petrov narrowly averted the launch of over 10,000 nuclear warheads at the US during the tensest and most perilous part of the Cold War. Colonel Petrov is now the hero of the film 'The Man who Saved the World', due for release in October in NY.

### THURS 26 SEPTEMBER 2013

PEOPLE FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT/CPACS HUMAN SURVIVAL  
PROJECT **26 SEPT 2013-26SEPT 1983 - THE DAY THE WORLD**  
**NEARLY ENDED US TO LAUNCH NUCLEAR**  
**MISSILES ON DAY OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON NUCLEAR**  
**DISARMAMENT**

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According to John Hallam of the Human Survival Project, (a joint project of PND and the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies):

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The High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament was the result of an overwhelming General Assembly vote in 2012, and the idea is for the very highest levels of national decision-makers – heads of state and ministers – to be involved in a global discussion on nuclear disarmament.

It has so happened that it takes place on the exact 30<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of an event that, had decisions been made slightly differently from the way they were in fact made, could have all too easily resulted in the destruction of civilisation and possibly of humans as a species.”

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The launching of 10,000 nuclear warheads by the USSR, which believed it was under attack by the US, would certainly have resulted in retaliation at a similar level. The ultimate use of between 20 and 30,000 large nuclear warheads on the cities of the US, Russia, China, Japan, and NATO, would give an immediate body-count in the hundreds of millions to billions, and would have created what we now know would be a long-lasting nuclear winter.”

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There could hardly be a more appropriate day for a high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament – or a more utterly and crassly INAPPROPRIATE day for a Minuteman-III missile test!”

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So utterly and crassly inappropriate is the timing for this test – and the US has already done one within hours of the ending of the International Day of Peace on 21Sept – that one is forced to wonder if there is not some perverse deliberateness to the timing. Certainly, the US is thumbing its nose at the rest of the world.”

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If this had been a North Korean missile test we'd be talking about UN Security Council resolutions of condemnation and sanctions. But for this there is just embarrassed silence.”

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A memo has been circulated to the entire General Assembly concerning 'The Day the World Nearly Ended', which is attached. The memo was written **before** the announcement of the Minuteman-III test.

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