

VIGIL FOR PEACE
FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1982
7:00 P.M. DeVARGAS PARK
TO REMEMBER THE
TRINITY SITE ATOMIC BOMB
AND
CHURCH ROCK SPILL

The Los Alamos Conversion Project is sponsoring a prayer vigil on Friday, July 16th at 7:00 p.m. in DeVargas Park (Alameda and Guadalupe Streets) in Santa Fe in memory of the historic events that have occurred on this date:

On July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb was detonated at the TRINITY TEST SITE on the White Sands Missile Range near Alamogordo, thrusting the world into the nuclear age.

On July 16, 1980, the CHURCH ROCK SPILL contaminated the Rio Puerco, its soils and adjacent communities, resulting in history's largest release of radioactive materials from a non-military operation.

From uranium boom towns to the WIPP Dump site, the nuclear cycle begins and ends in New Mexico. The military occupation of Los Alamos was established in November, 1942 when the government condemned the Los Alamos Ranch School and 54,000 surrounding acres of public and private land to be used as a demolition range. It was there that the scientists of the Manhattan Project designed and developed the first atomic bomb. Twenty-eight months after the arrival of the first scientific contingent, the world's first man-made atomic explosion took place at the Trinity Test Site near Alamogordo. Three weeks later, a similar bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.

Since that time, the Los Alamos National Laboratories have developed more efficient methods for inflicting human suffering. And the land and resources of New Mexico -- once an economy of self-sufficient agrarian people -- have become the artificial limb of the permanent war economy, an economy which diverts productive resources into a deteriorating cycle of death and destruction.

As individuals committed to the continuation of the human race, we must take a stand for life and demand the dismantling of the Los Alamos Weapons programs, demand the conversion of the Labs to civilian based research and development.

We call upon New Mexicans of conscience to activate their circles of influence to lessen the threat of nuclear war and prevent the destruction of our environment. As New Mexicans, we have a special obligation to our world and fellow citizens, a responsibility to speak for peace, to demand a rational and equitable use of our resources, and to create a just society. We call upon all people of conscience to come together to pray for peace -- in our hearts and in the world -- and to bear witness to the millions around the globe crying out for a peaceful and just society.

THE LOS ALAMOS CONVERSION PROJECT is an ad hoc coalition of local religious, social, and community action groups dedicated to converting the destructive war technology into productive peace technology. The LACP plans a series of educational activities to promote the goal of conversion. Our next event will focus on the memory of Hiroshima-Nagasaki bombings August 6th through 9th. Please join us.

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED
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Sponsored in cooperation with Concerned Citizens of Cerrillos.