

WHAT'S YOUR BETTERWORLD ISSUE? DISARMAMENT



"Controlled, universal disarmament is the imperative of our time. The demand for it by the hundreds of millions whose chief concern is the long future of themselves and their children will, I hope, become so universal and so insistent that no man, no government anywhere, can withstand it." -- Dwight D. Eisenhower

Many people believe that the world would be a more peaceful place if there were fewer weapons. An important focus of even the earliest peace movements was to advocate for disarmament -- convincing nations to keep only the weapons they need for an adequate police force. "Peace through Disarmament" is a major focus for the United Nations. The UN has made some progress towards disarmament, with treaties and conventions that create guidelines and international laws about weapons production and exportation to other countries. But the UN can only do what nations allow it to do, and unfortunately, the profits many nations make from exporting weapons has slowed progress in disarmament over the years.

Disarmament efforts focus on two basic types of weapons -- **weapons of mass destruction**, including nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, and **small arms**. Much attention has naturally been spent on working to halt the nuclear arms race because of the devastating amount of damage that these weapons can do. Progress has been made, but there are still more than 30,000-50,000 nuclear warheads - enough to destroy the entire planet many times over. WMDs may get much of the public attention, but small arms disarmament is also an important, although controversial issue, for many. There are more than 600 million guns in the world! 1 million people are injured by guns each year, and 300,000 are killed with guns.

Disarmament Week (which begins on October 24 -- the anniversary of the UN's founding) is an important occasion to raise awareness in the public and among governments, about the crucial need to recognize disarmament as a key element in creating a more peaceful, just and sustainable world.

Do One Thing for a Better World

1. Find out more about nuclear disarmament and gun control
2. Have an event or a dialogue about nuclear disarmament and gun control
3. Support organizations working to stop the proliferation of weapons

Disarmament Links

- Abolition 2000 (abolition2000.org)
- Arms Control Association (armscontrol.org)
- Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence (stopthenra.com)
- Intl. Action Network on Small Arms (iansa.org)
- Intl. Campaign to Ban Landmines (icbl.org)
- NGO Committee on Disarmament (disarm.igc.org)
- Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (napf.org)
- Project Ploughshares (ploughshares.org)
- UN Office for Disarmament (disarmament.un.org)

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"Our aim is to have a universal nuclear weapons convention signed by the year 2010 and ultimately abolish all nuclear weapons by the year 2020."

-- Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayors For Peace

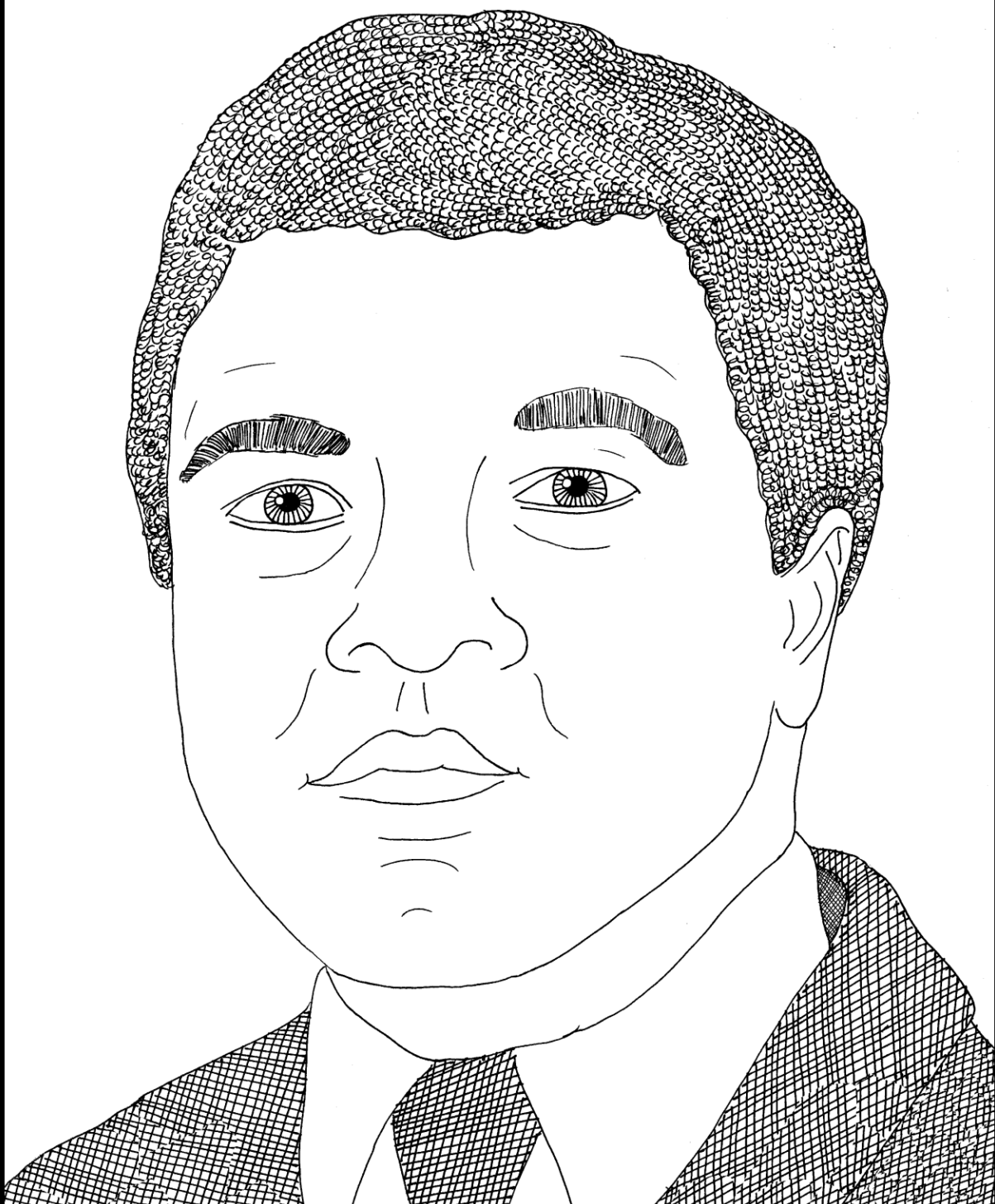
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"We must not only control the weapons that can kill us, we must bridge the great disparities of wealth and opportunity among the peoples of the world, the vast majority of whom live in poverty without hope, opportunity or choices in life. These conditions are a breeding ground for division that can cause a desperate people to resort to nuclear weapons as a last resort."

-- Muhammad Ali

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"The sponsors of war closely resemble the weapons they create. And smart bombs, depleted uranium, land mines, rockets and tanks, rather than protect 'widows and orphans and strangers at the gate,' are designed precisely to create 'widows and orphans,' to transform strangers into enemies and enemies into corpses."

-- Daniel Berrigan

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"Nuclear weapons are the scourge of the earth;
to mine for them, manufacture them, deploy them, use them,
is a curse against God, the human family, and the earth itself."

-- Philip Berrigan

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"I call on all scientists in all countries to cease and desist from work creating, developing, improving and manufacturing further nuclear weapons - and, for that matter, other weapons of potential mass destruction such as chemical and biological weapons."

-- Hans Bethe

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"It is a measure of arrogance to assert that a nuclear weapons-free world is impossible when 95% of the nations of the world are already nuclear-free. I think that the vast majority of people on the face of this earth will endorse the proposition that nuclear weapons have no place among us.

There is no security in nuclear weapons. It is a fool's game."

-- General Lee Butler

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"As a doctor, as well as a mother and a world citizen, I wish to practice the ultimate form of preventive medicine by ridding the earth of these technologies that propagate disease, suffering, and death."
-- Dr. Helen Caldicott

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**"Reducing the nuclear danger will require a universal, consistent opposition to all forms of weapons development."
-- David Cortright**

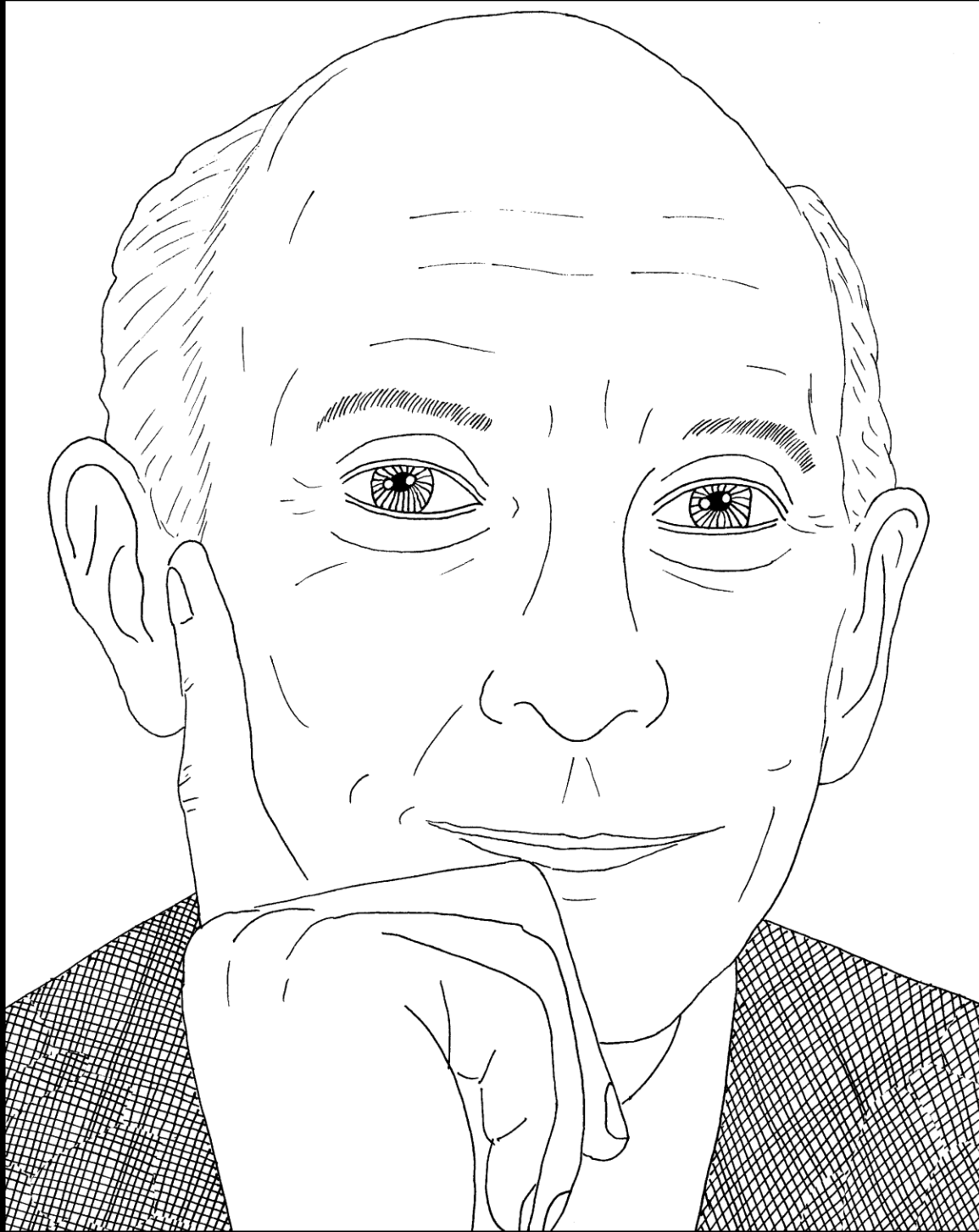
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"There's a very simple reason for focusing on the nuclear issue. Many, many issues are of supreme importance in one way or another, but if we blow ourselves up with nuclear weapons, no other issue is really going to matter."

-- Alan Cranston

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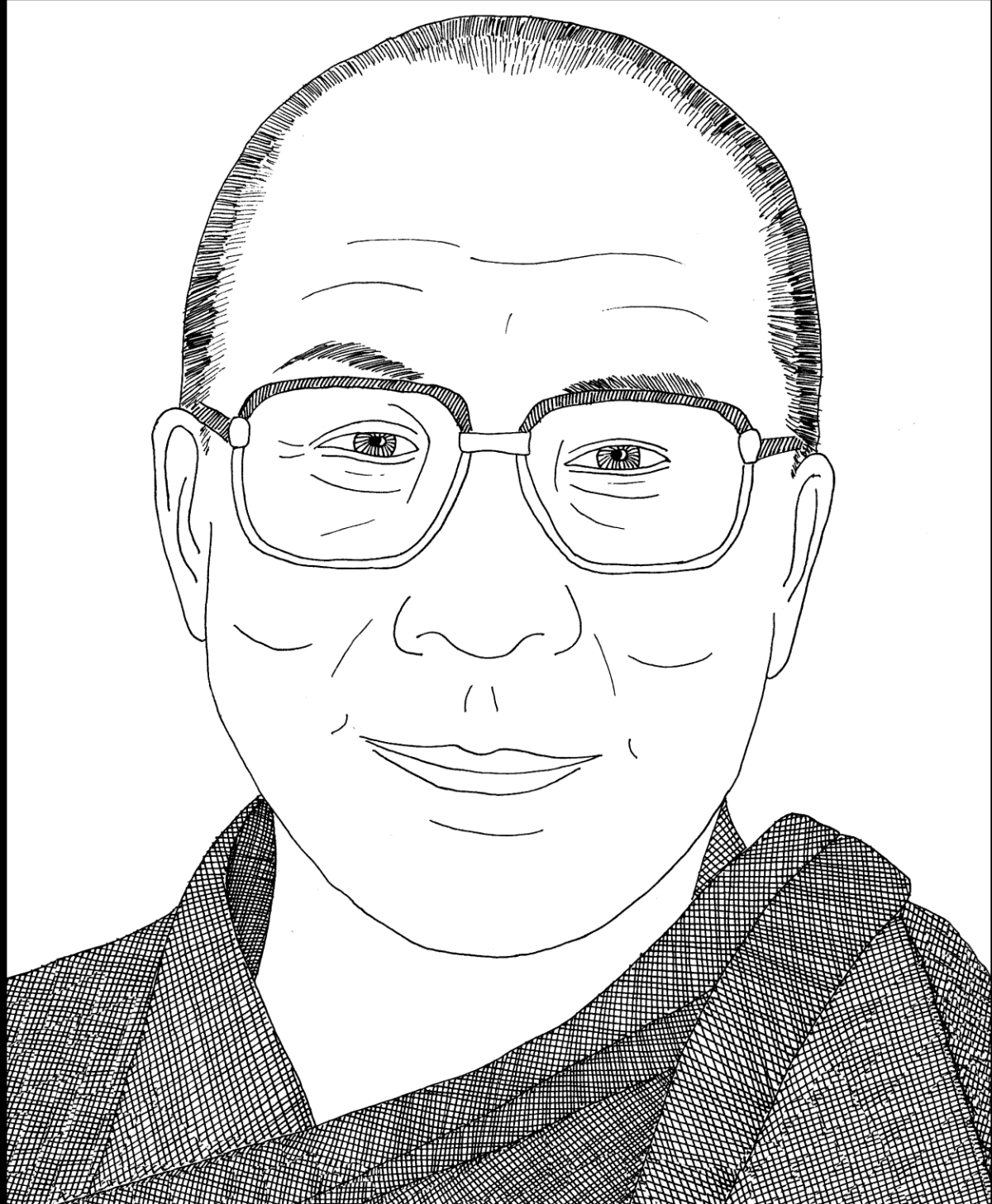
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"The noble task of arms control and disarmament cannot be accomplished by confrontation and condemnation. Hostile attitudes only serve to heat up the situation, whereas a true sense of respect gradually cools down what otherwise could become explosive."

-- The Dalai Lama

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**"The nuclear arms race is like two people sitting in a pool of gasoline spending all their time making matches."
-- John Denver**

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**"Wherever arms flow, violence follows.
Bullets replace ballots as the solution to political disputes."
-- Michael Douglas**

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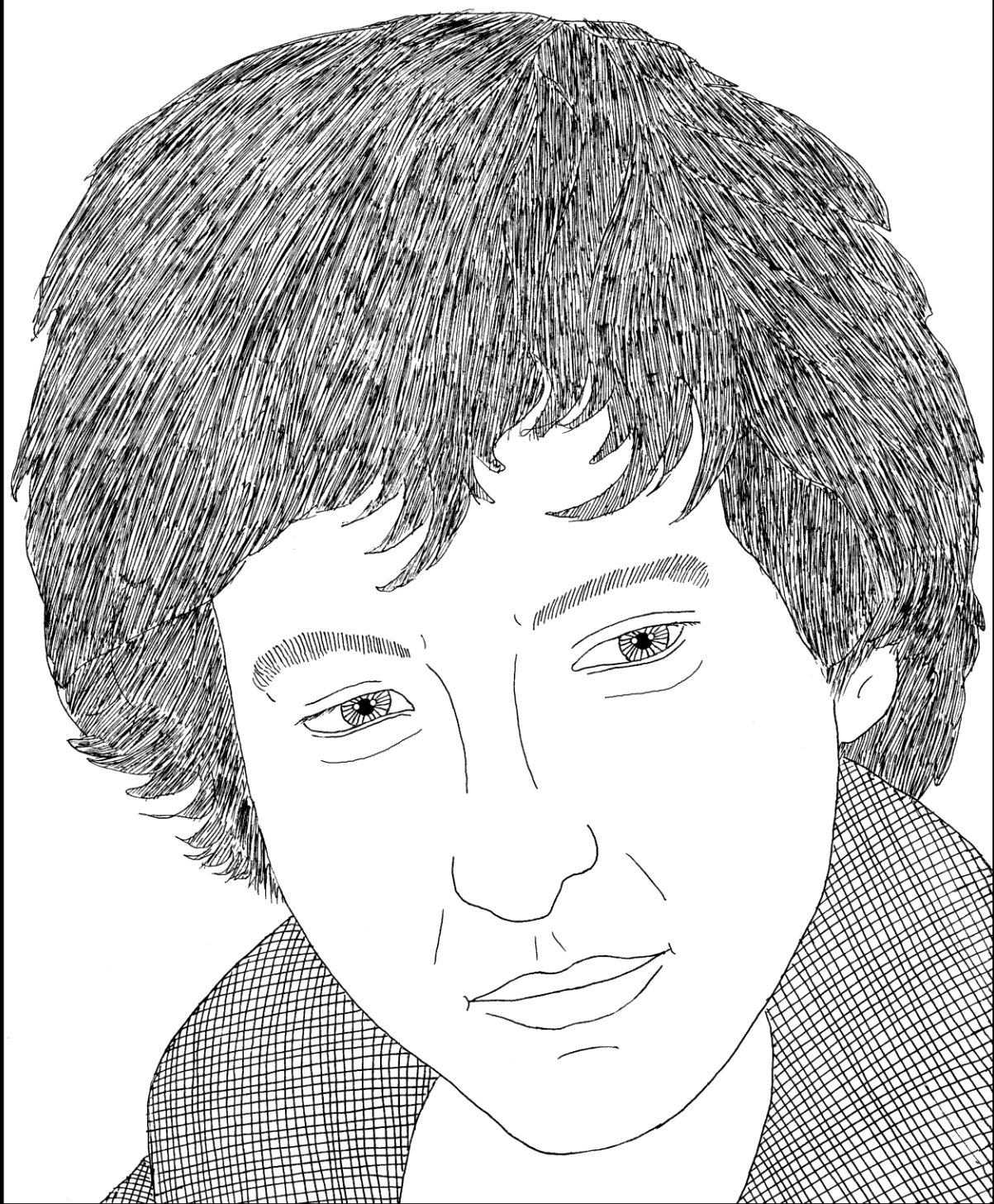
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**Yes, 'n' how many times must the cannon balls fly
Before they're forever banned?
-- Bob Dylan**

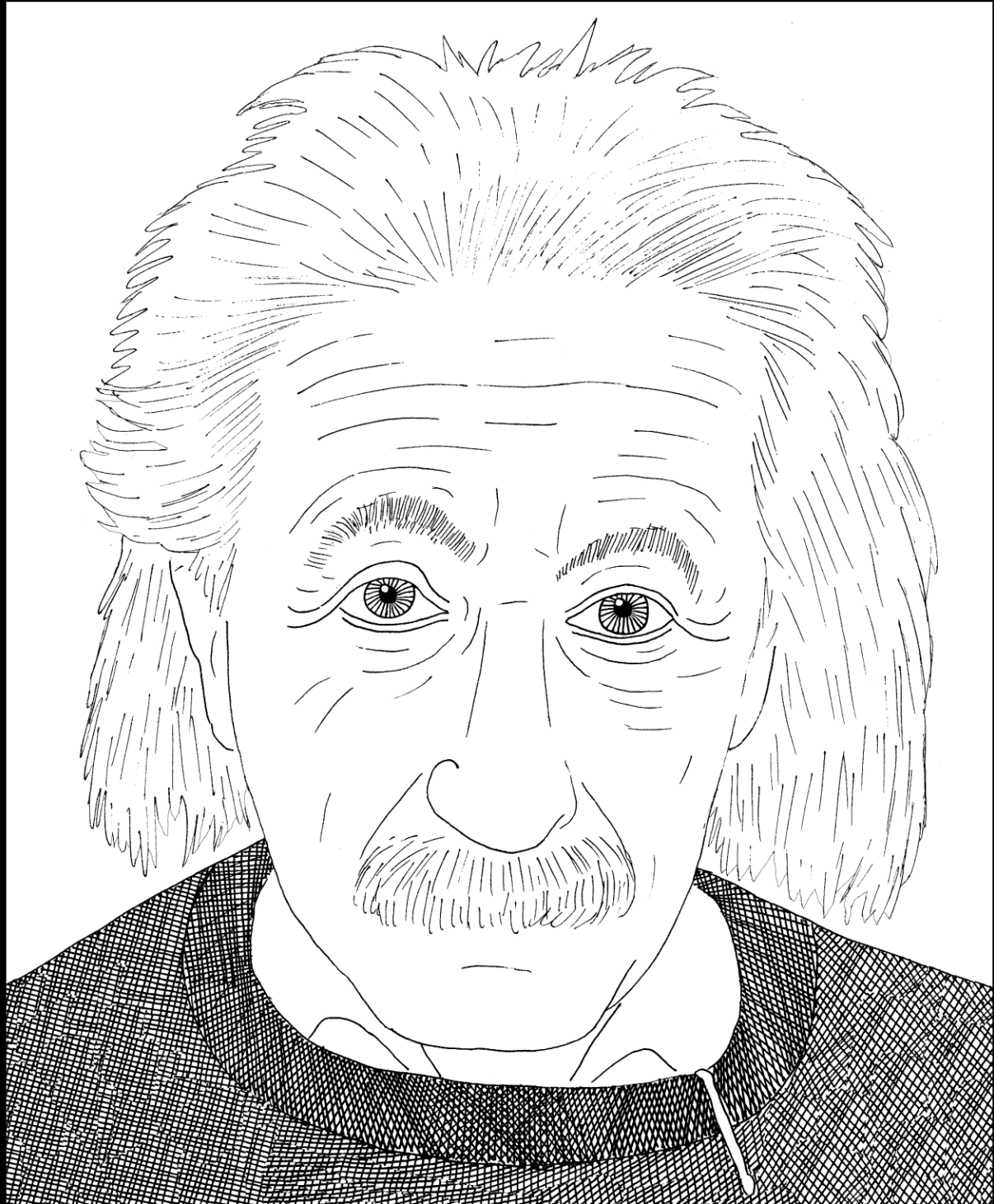
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**"I do not know with what weapons World War 3 will be fought,
but World War 4 will be fought with sticks and stones."**

-- Albert Einstein

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-- Dwight D. Eisenhower

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"It is time for the rest of the world to join ... in demanding that ALL the nuclear weapons states -including Israel, India and Pakistan, but above all the US and Russia - negotiate concrete steps on a definite time-table toward the global, inspected abolition of nuclear weapons."

-- Daniel Ellsberg

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"We must urge our leaders to fulfill the obligations of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The United States must assume world leadership to end once and for all the threat of nuclear war.

It is our moral responsibility."

-- Harrison Ford

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"A civilization built on dualism and war within and between persons, one that puts its most creative minds and its best engineers to sadistic work building more and more destructive weapons, is no civilization at all. It needs a radical transformation from the heart outwards. It needs to outgrow and outlaw war just as in the last century it outlawed slavery."

-- Matthew Fox

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"It is really a moral and ethical question. Should we be moving the already insane and expensive global arms race into space or should the U.S. be doing everything it can now, before it is too late, to create international agreements to keep space for peace?"

-- Bruce Gagnon

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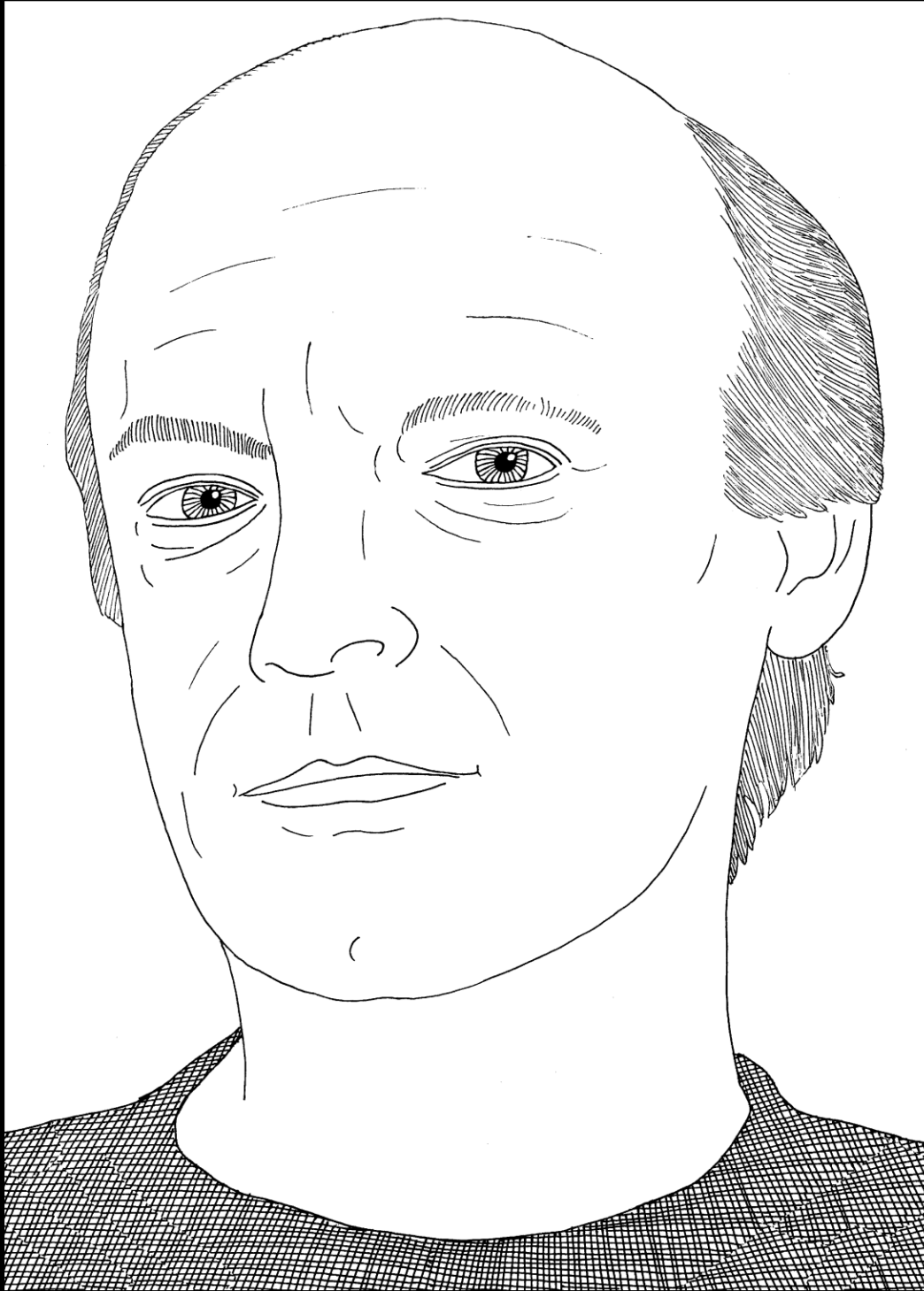
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"From the point of view of the economy, the sale of weapons is indistinguishable from the sale of food. When a building collapses or a plane crashes, it's rather inconvenient from the point of view of those inside, but it's altogether convenient for the growth of the gross national product, which sometimes ought to be called the "gross criminal product."

-- Eduardo Galeano

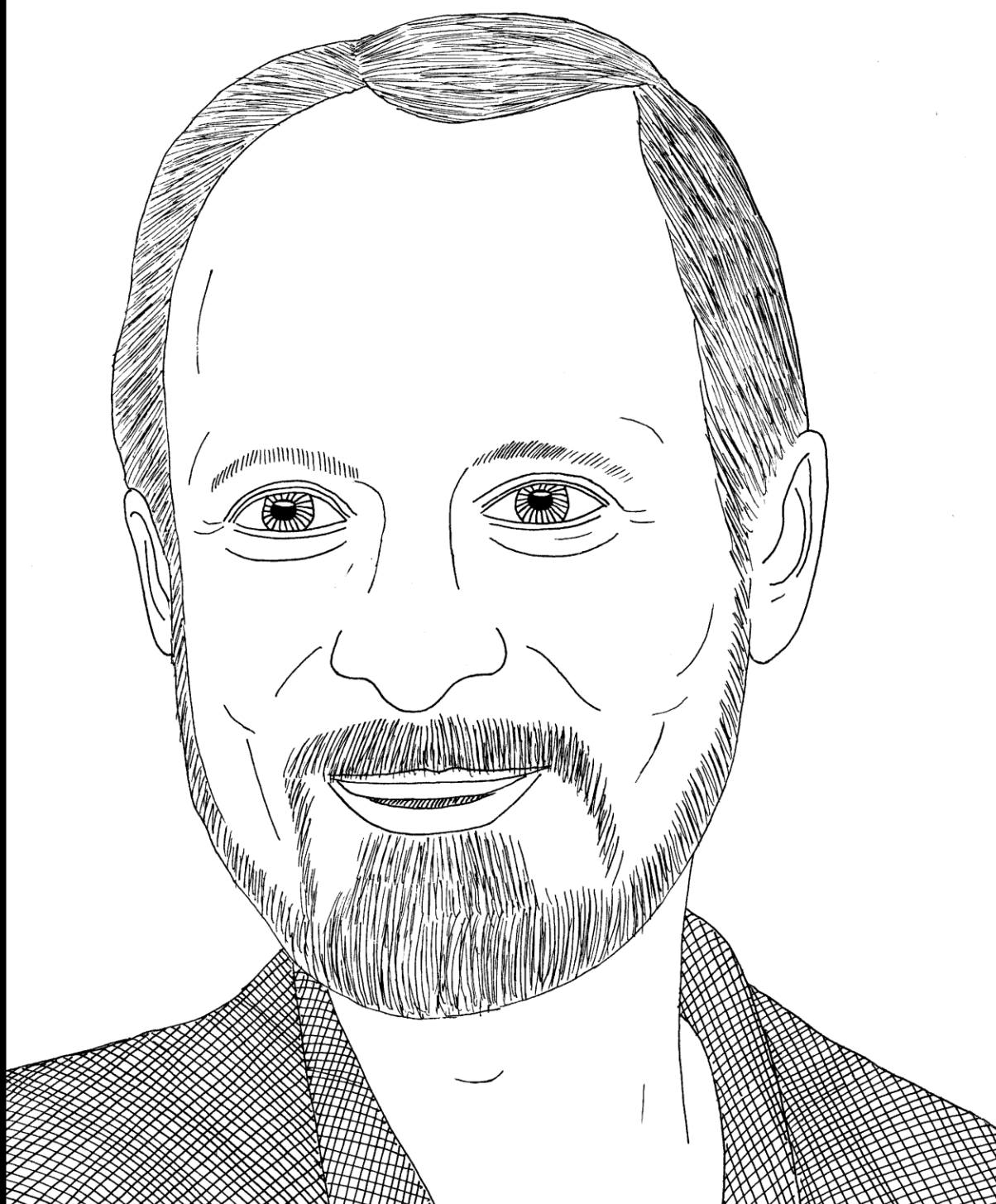
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**"We should put away the militaristic outlook. The U.S. should start talking about disarmament, nuclear disarmament, of the region."
-- Akbar Ganji, Iranian Journalist**

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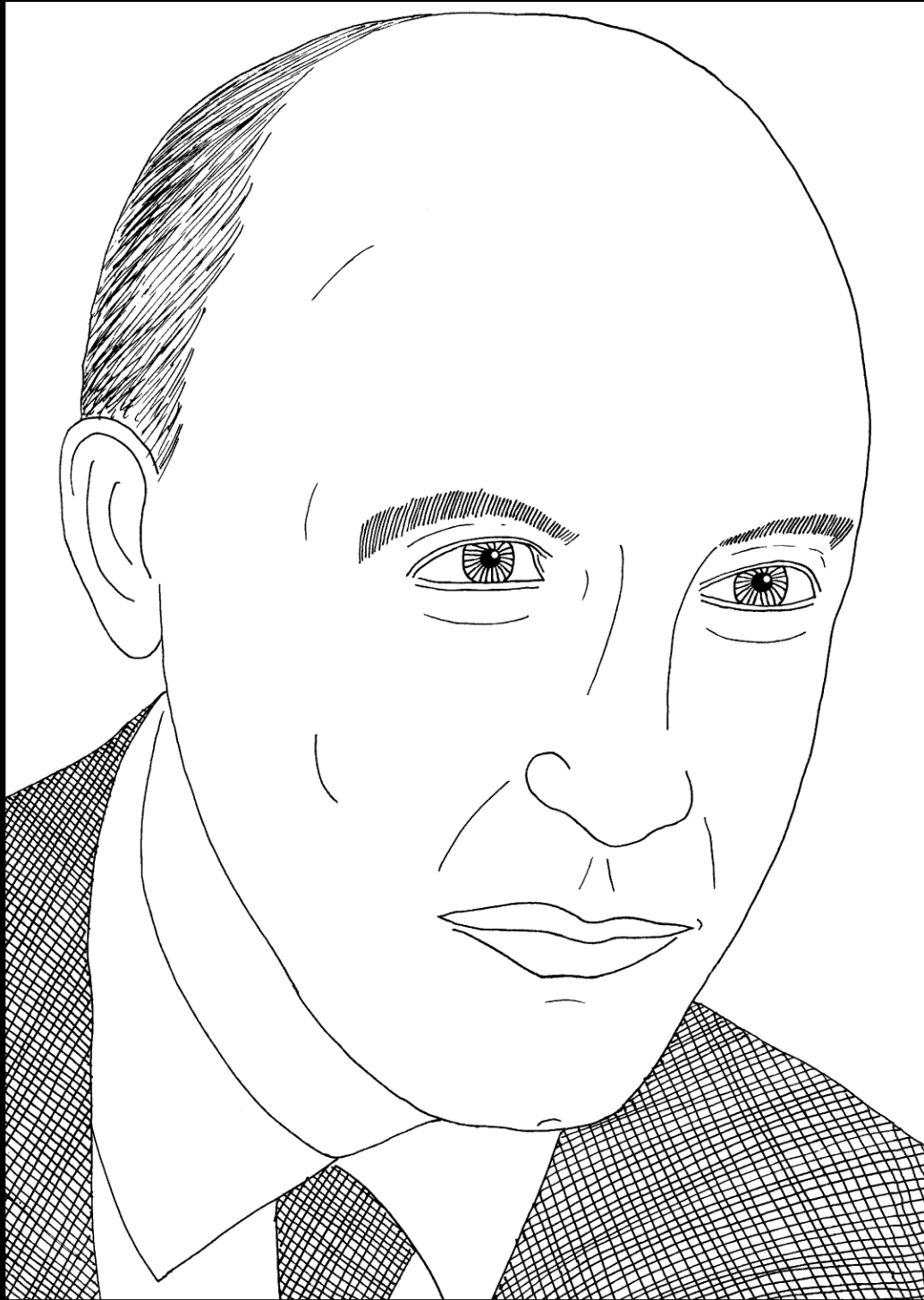
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"...convince all nuclear powers, including those which have been more reluctant up to now, of the necessity to respect the "vital interests" of all peoples and to become fully aware of the profound truth of the following conclusion which the United Nations approved by unanimity four years ago: "Mankind is confronted with a choice: we must halt the arms race and proceed to disarmament or face annihilation".

-- Alfonso García Robles

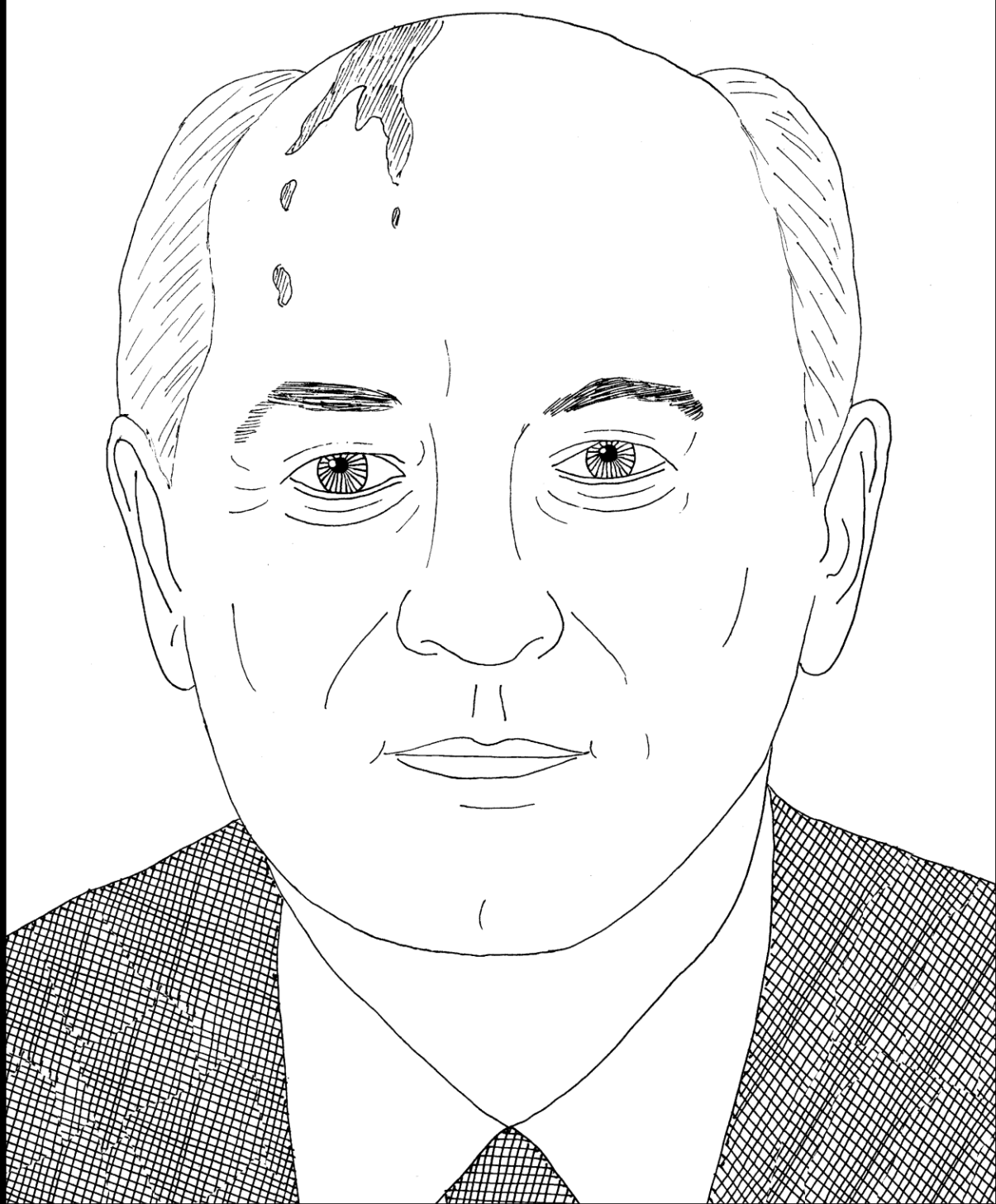
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"It is my firm belief that the infinite and uncontrollable fury of nuclear weapons should never be held in the hands of any mere mortal ever again, for any reason."

-- Mikhail Gorbachev

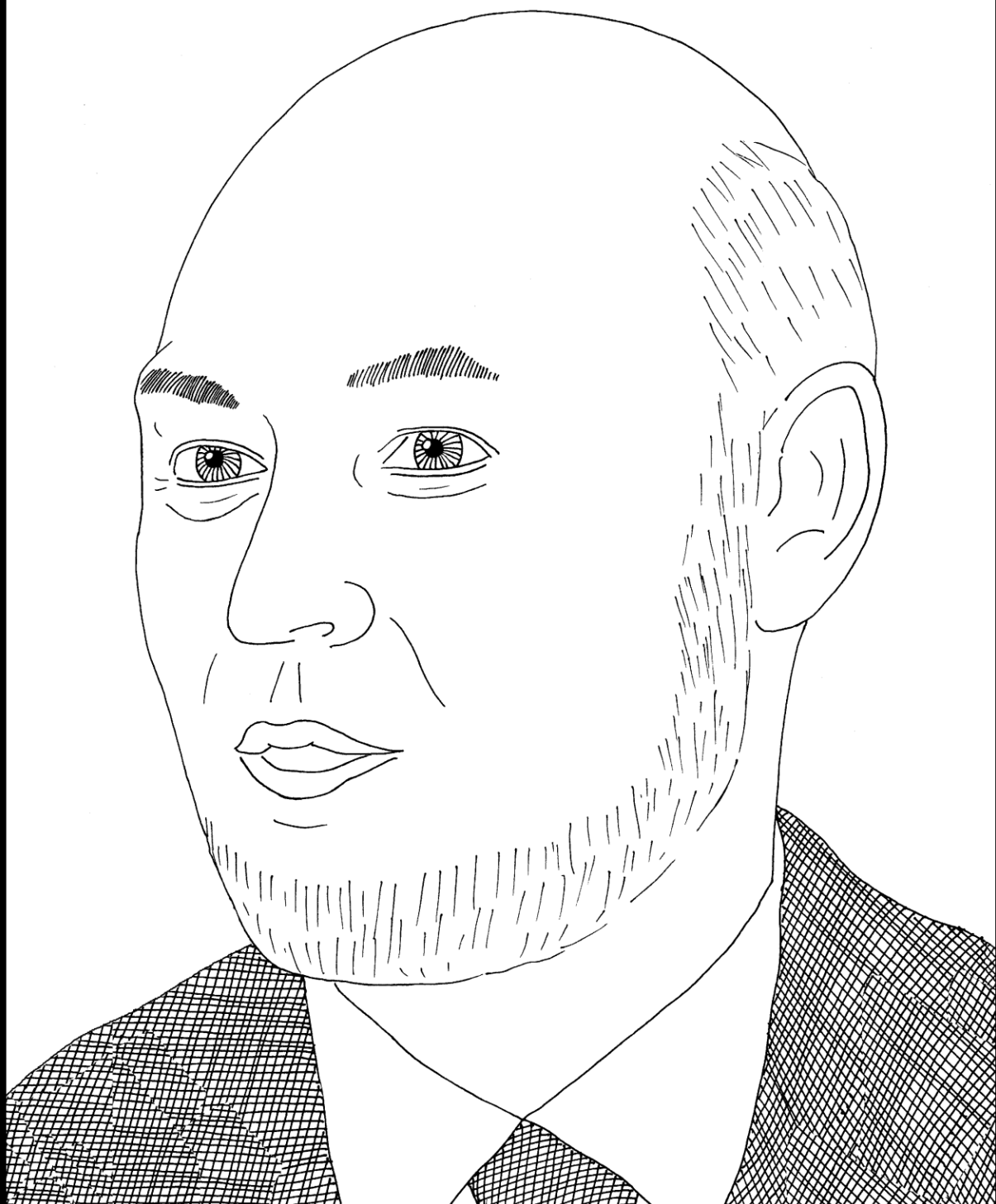
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**"Nuclear weapons elimination will make all states and their people safer.
It is time to assert our right to live in a nuclear weapons free world."
-- Jonathan Granoff**

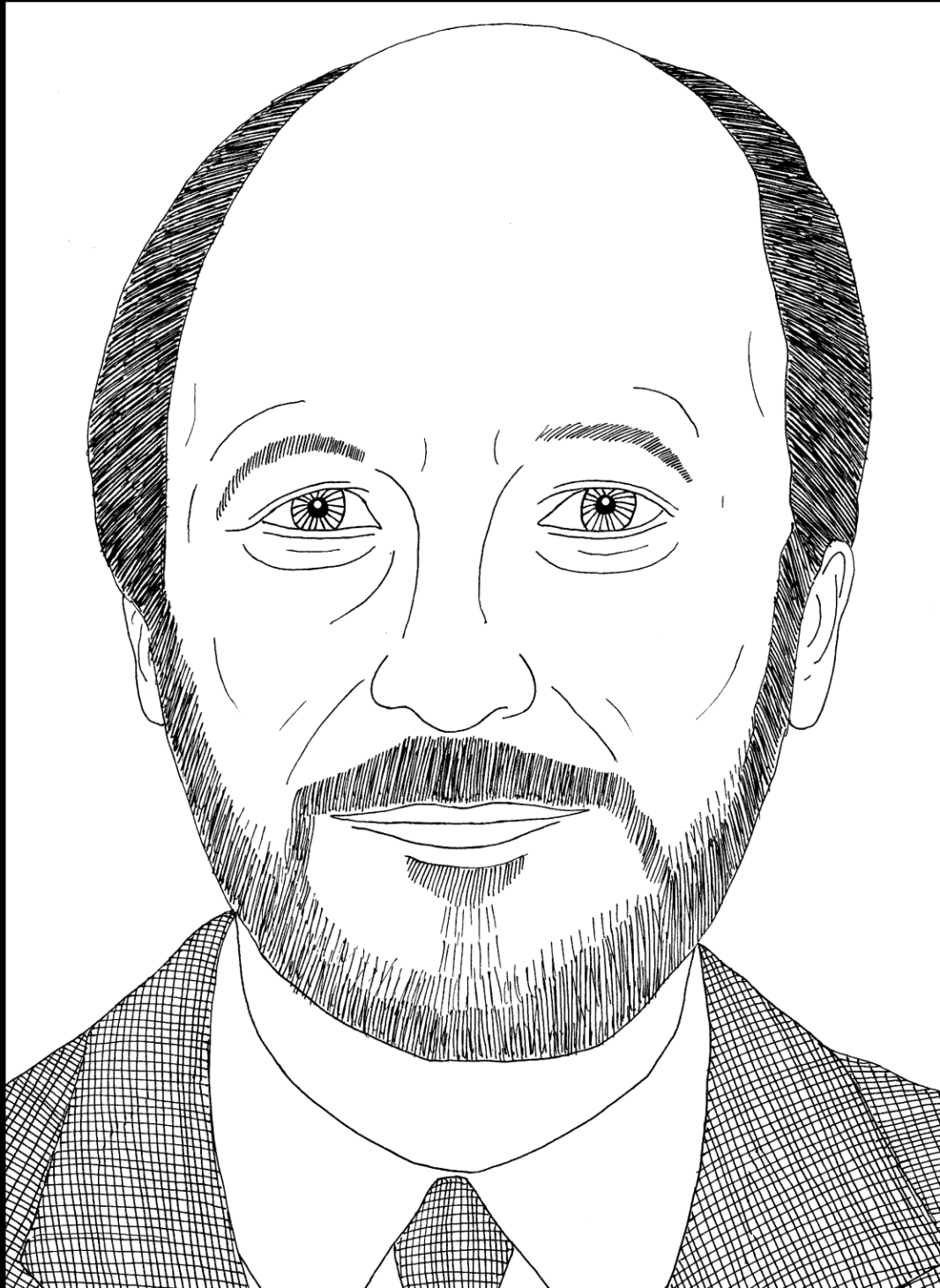
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"Much of the big media outlets in North America are owned by arms manufacturers, like Westinghouse, or GE. That's unacceptable. So we're not getting editorial policy, we're not getting a vision of truth. People just don't know what is going on anymore, and that's really dangerous stuff."

-- Denis Halliday

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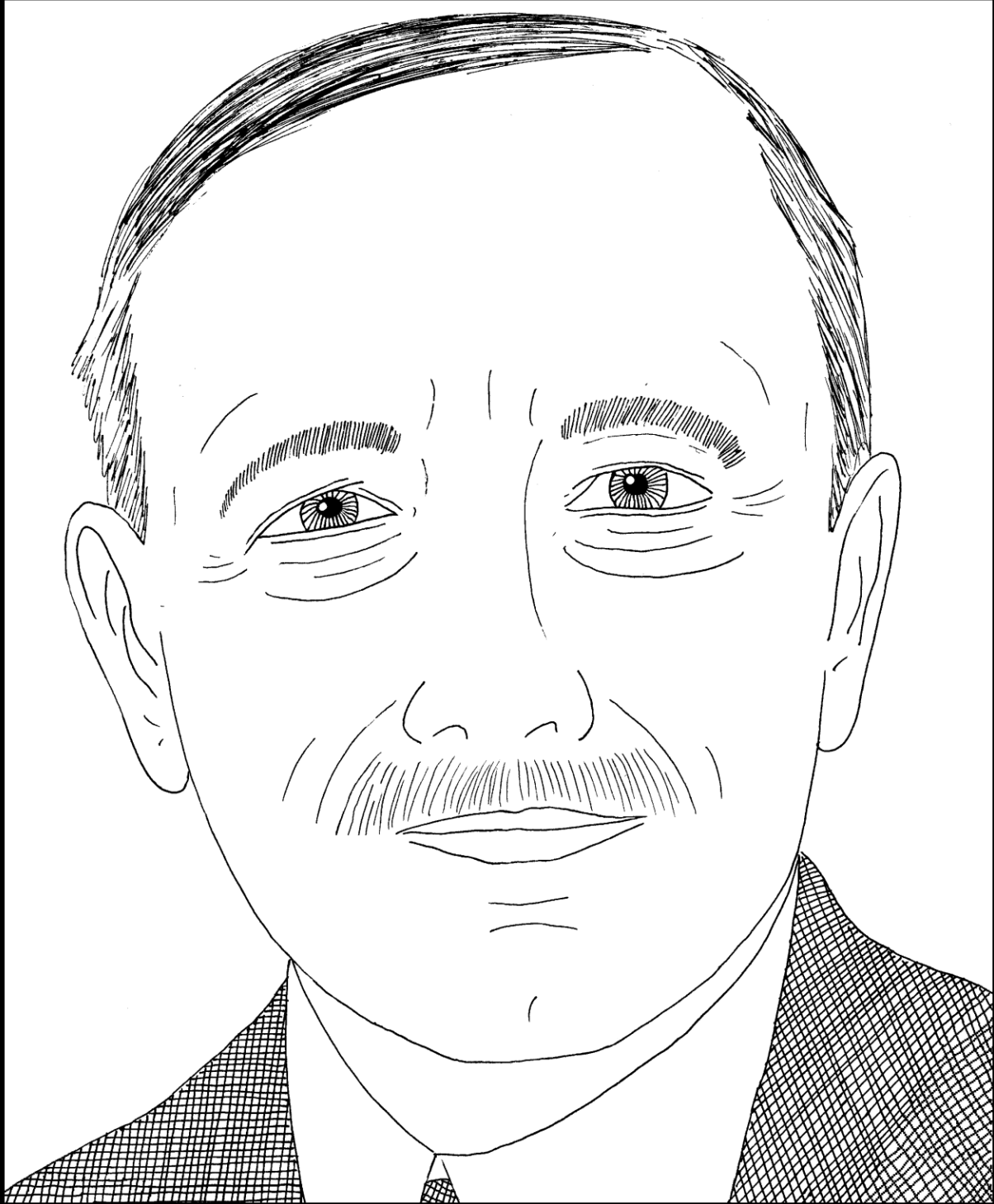
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**"The world wants disarmament, the world needs disarmament.
We have it in our power to help fashion future history."
-- Arthur Henderson**

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**"For the first time in the history of mankind,
one generation literally has the power to destroy the past,
the present and the future, the power to bring time to an end."**

-- Hubert Humphrey

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"The time has come for those nations that rely on the force of nuclear armaments to respectfully heed the voices of peace-loving people, not least the atomic bomb survivors, to strive in good faith for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and to advance towards the complete abolishment of all such weapons."

-- Ichcho Itoh, Mayor of Nagasaki

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**"We must create world-wide law and law enforcement
as we outlaw world-wide war and weapons"
-- John F. Kennedy**

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"If we are to achieve a world free from nuclear weapons, we need the involvement of young people. Youth have energy, enthusiasm and many good ideas to share. Most importantly, however, it is young people who will be inheriting the problems which have been left to them by the generations past."

-- Marc Kielburger

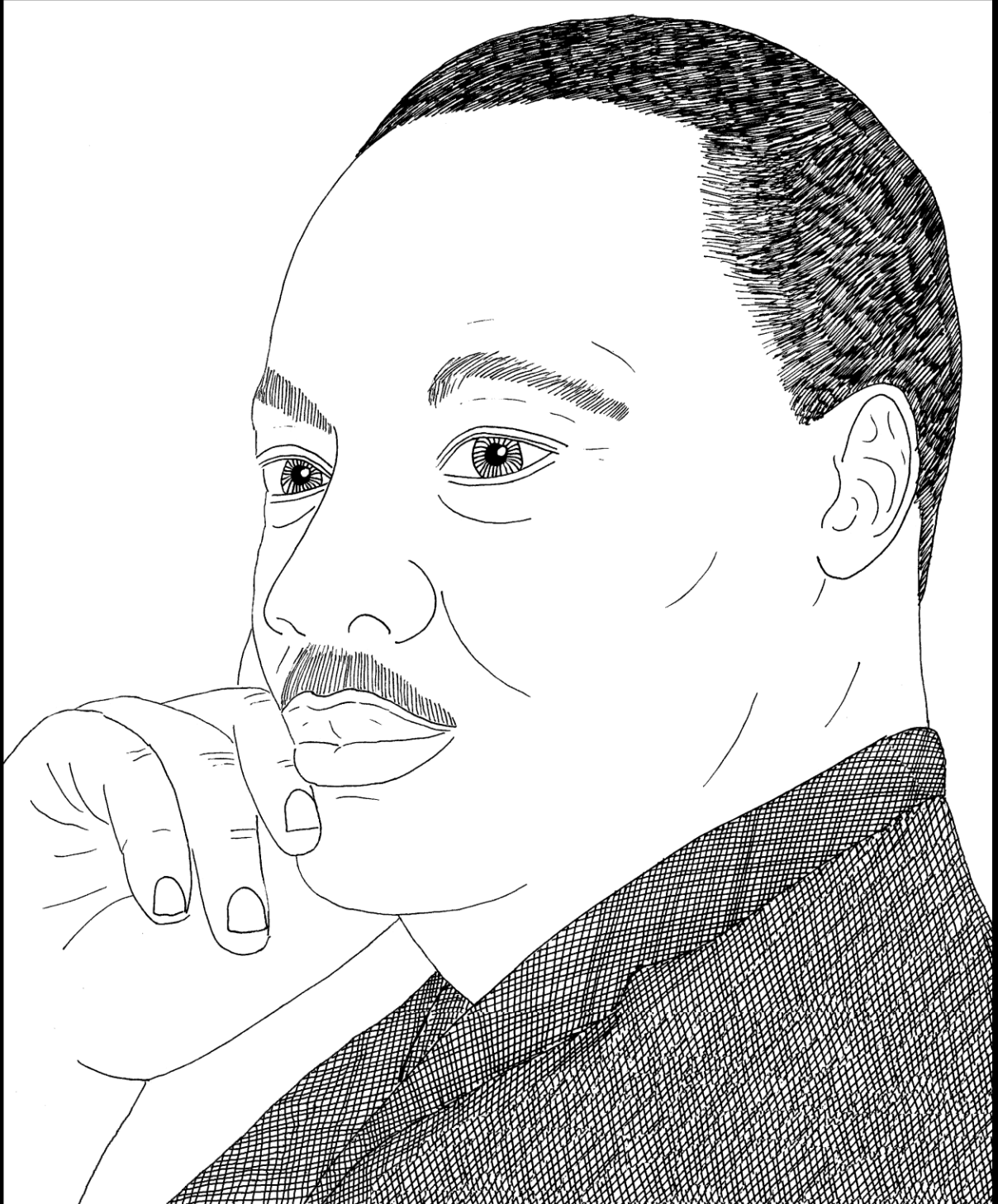
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"Somehow we must transform the dynamics of the world power struggle from the negative nuclear arms race which no one can win to a positive contest to harness man's creative genius for the purpose of making peace and prosperity a reality for all of the nations of the world."

-- Martin Luther King, Jr.

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"We all have choices. We can build walls or we can build bridges. We can give our talents to creating weapons of annihilation, as so many scientists have done, or we can work to find solutions to humanity's greatest problems. Our orientation is found not only in our acts, but also in the policies we support or oppose."

-- David Krieger

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"As citizen-activists the world over merge, they can become an irresistible force to create peace and protect the planet. From here will come a new movement to abolish nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction."

-- Dennis Kucinich

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"Our nuclear free status is a statement of our belief that we and our fellow human beings can build the institutions which will one day allow us all to renounce the weapons of mass destruction."

-- David Lange (32nd Prime Minister of New Zealand)

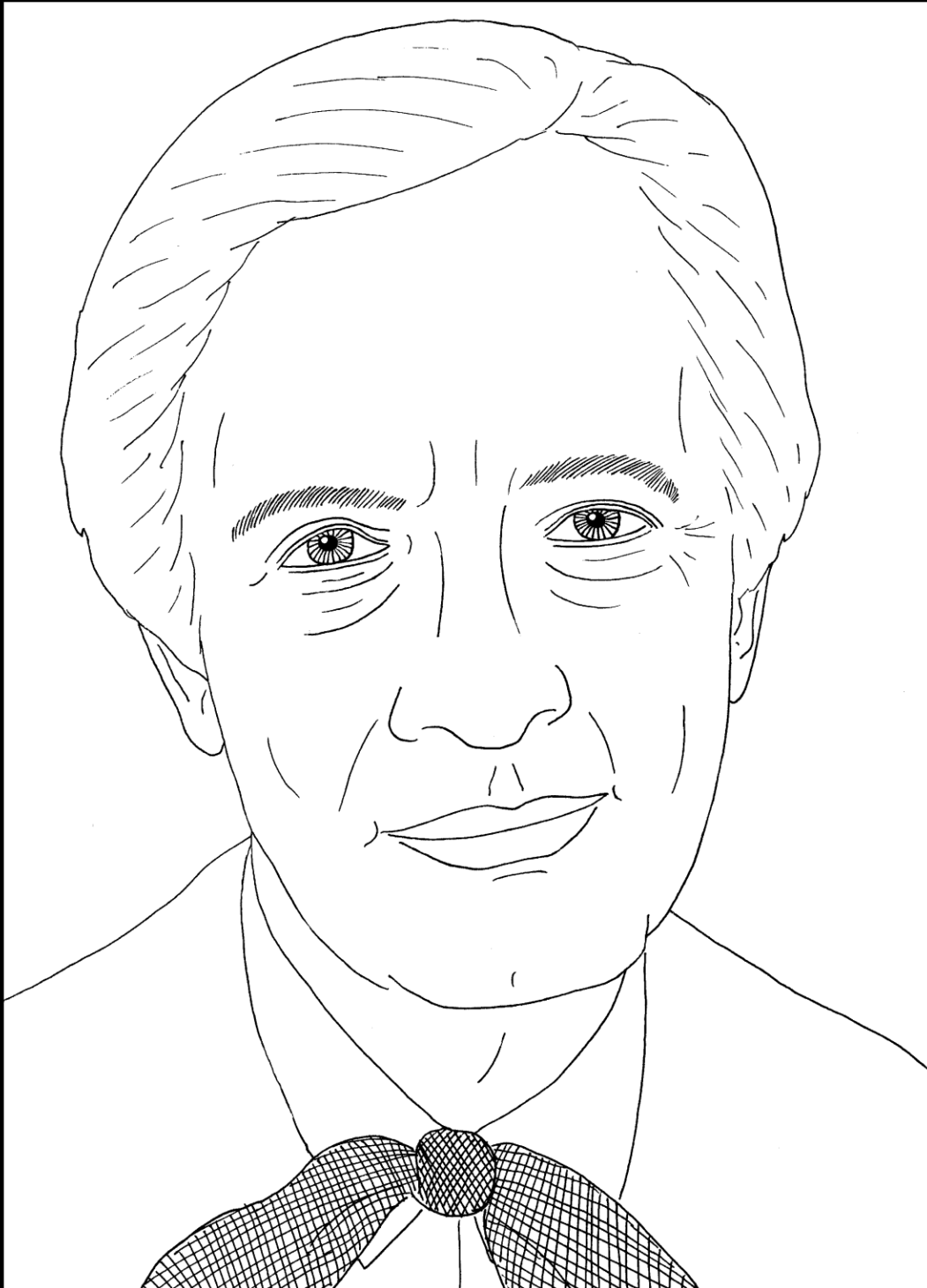
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"Every adult in the world has some sense that he or she might be obliterated at any time by these weapons that we have created."

-- Robert Jay Lifton

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"We physicians have focused on the nuclear threat as the singular issue of our era. We are not indifferent to other human rights and hard-won civil liberties. But first we must be able to bequeath to our children the most fundamental of all rights, which preconditions all others; the right to survival."

-- Bernard Lown

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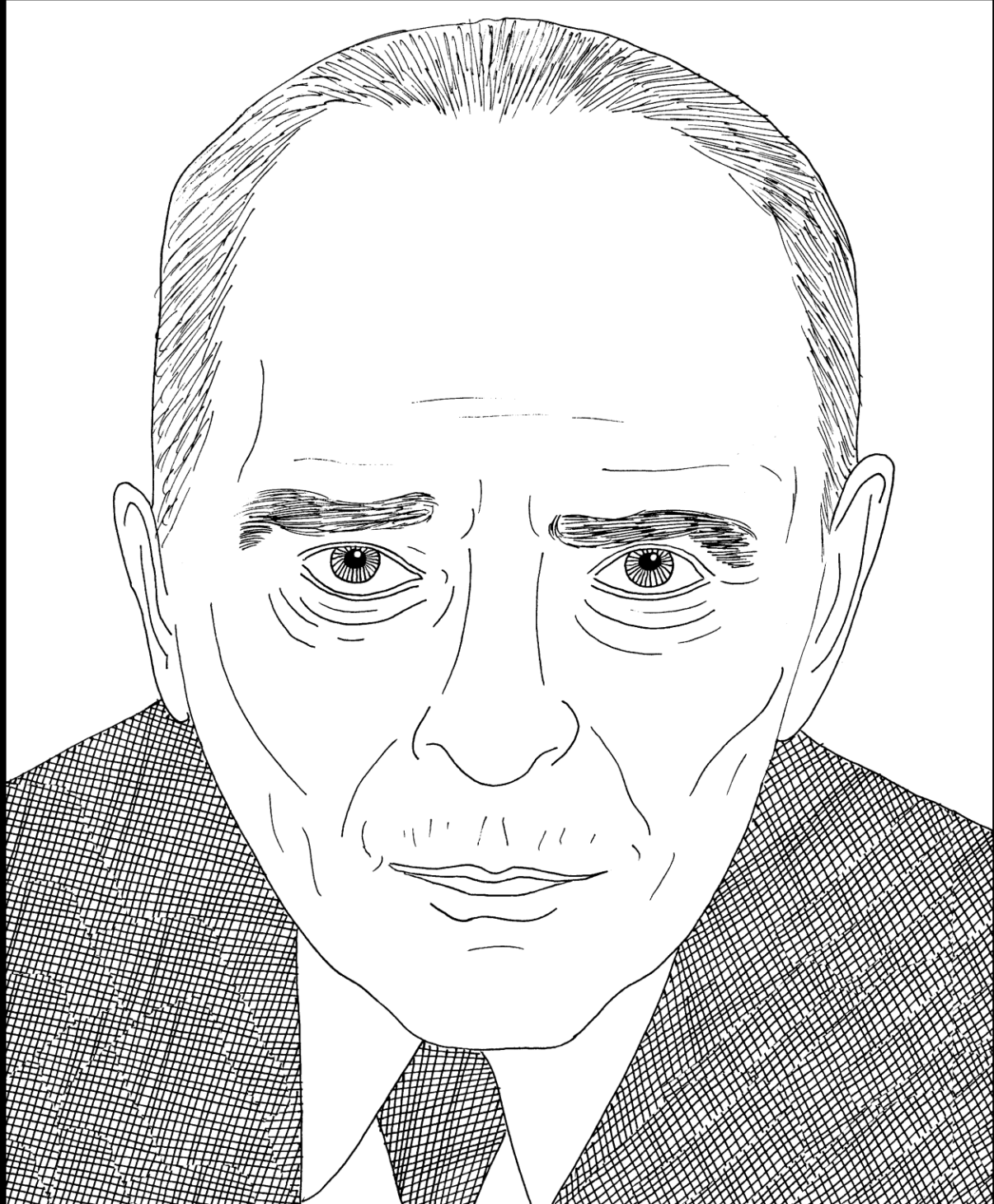
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"The big powers are traveling on the dangerous road of armament. The signpost just ahead of us is 'Oblivion.' Can the march on this road be stopped? Yes, if public opinion uses the power it now has."
-- Sean MacBride

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**"Long live all us crazy soldiers who were born under calico skies
May we never be called to handle all the weapons of war we despise"
-- Paul McCartney**

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**"I never liked guns, I hate them..."
-- Sir Roger Moore**

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"The cause of Peace has had my share of efforts, taking the ultra non-resistance ground - that a Christian cannot consistently uphold, and actively support, a government based on the sword, or whose ultimate resort is to the destroying weapons."

-- Lucretia Mott

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**"More must be done in concrete terms
in order to promote the cause of disarmament."**

-- Alva Myrdal

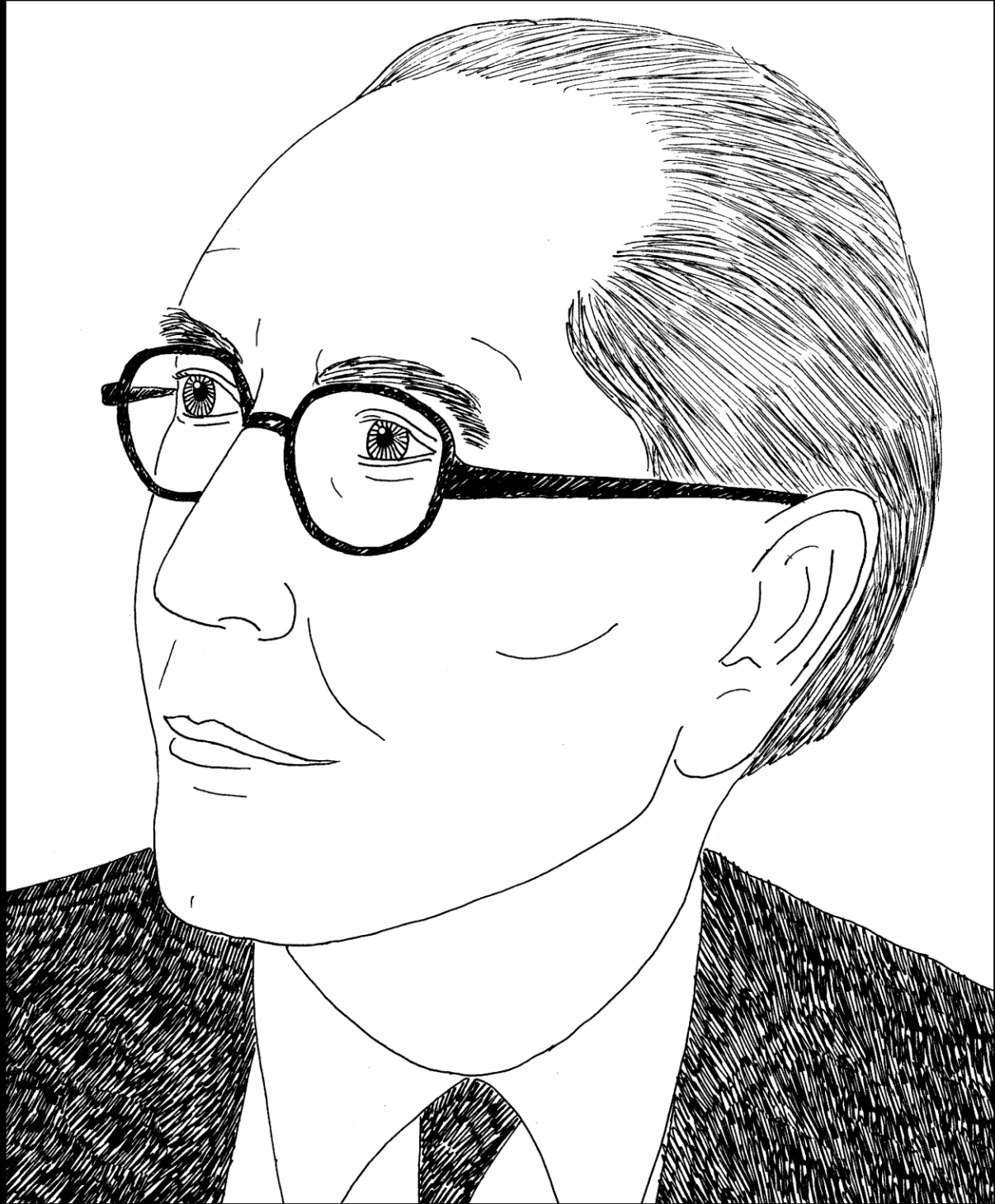
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"In the age when the atom has been split, the moon encircled, diseases conquered, is disarmament so difficult a matter that it must remain a distant dream?"

-- Philip Noel-Baker

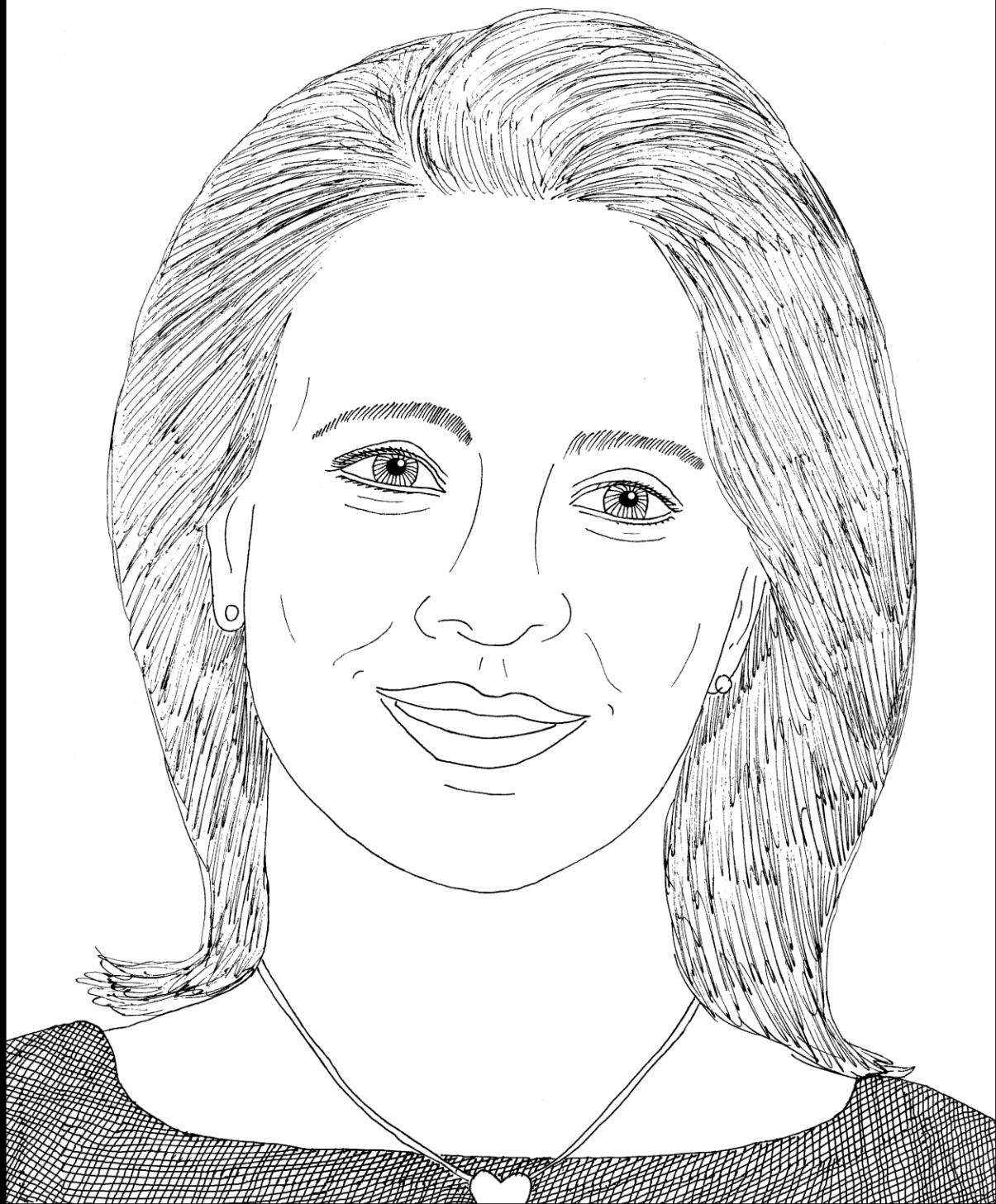
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"The sheer folly of trying to defend a nation by destroying all life on the planet must be apparent to anyone capable of rational thought. Nuclear capability must be reduced to zero, globally, permanently.

There is no other option."

-- Queen Noor of Jordan

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**"The single biggest threat that we face is a nuclear weapon or some weapon of mass destruction. What that means is that we have to be extraordinarily aggressive and vigilant in controlling nuclear proliferation."
-- Barack Obama**

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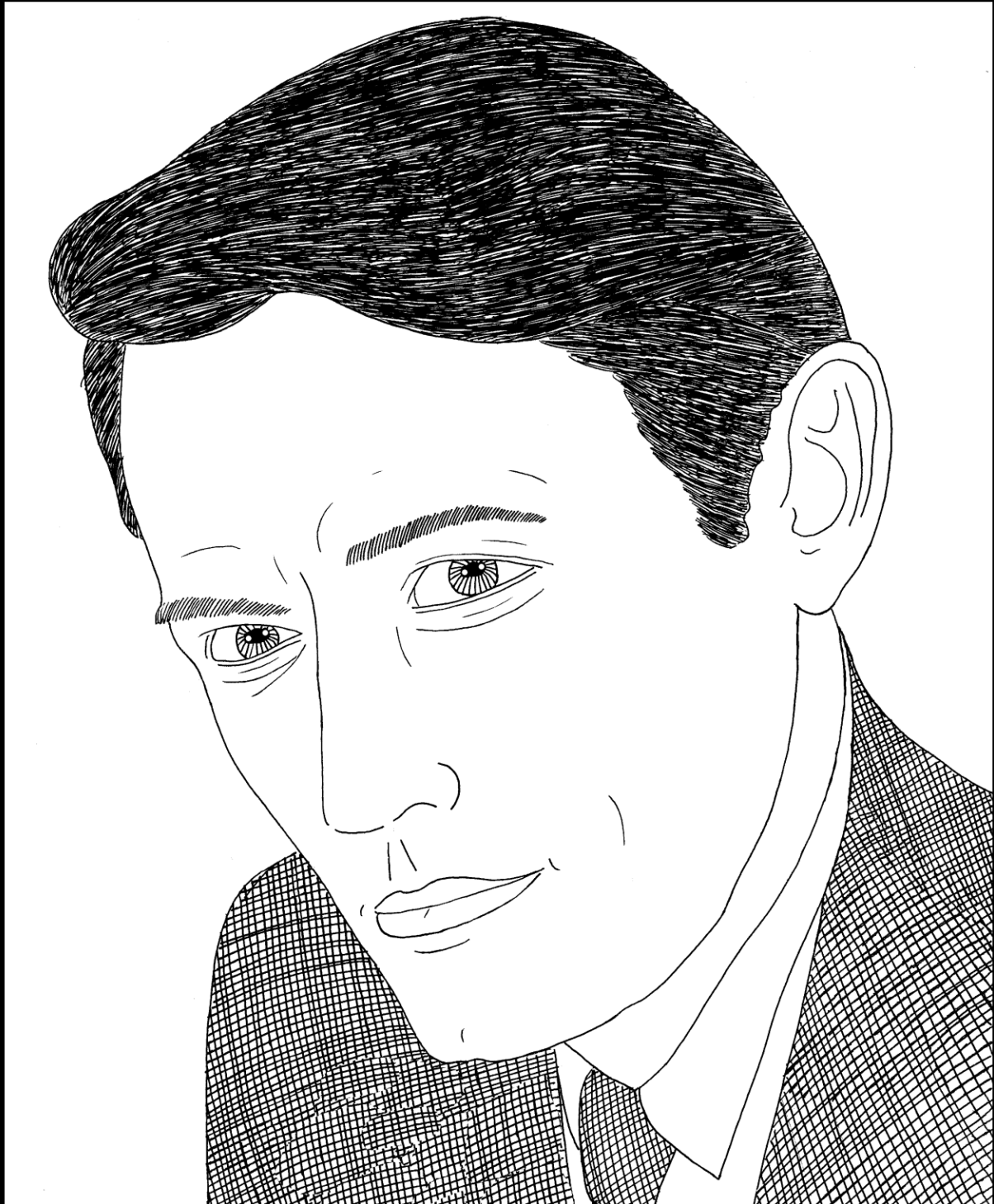
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**"What is wrong with keeping guns
out of the hands of the wrong people?"
-- Gregory Peck**

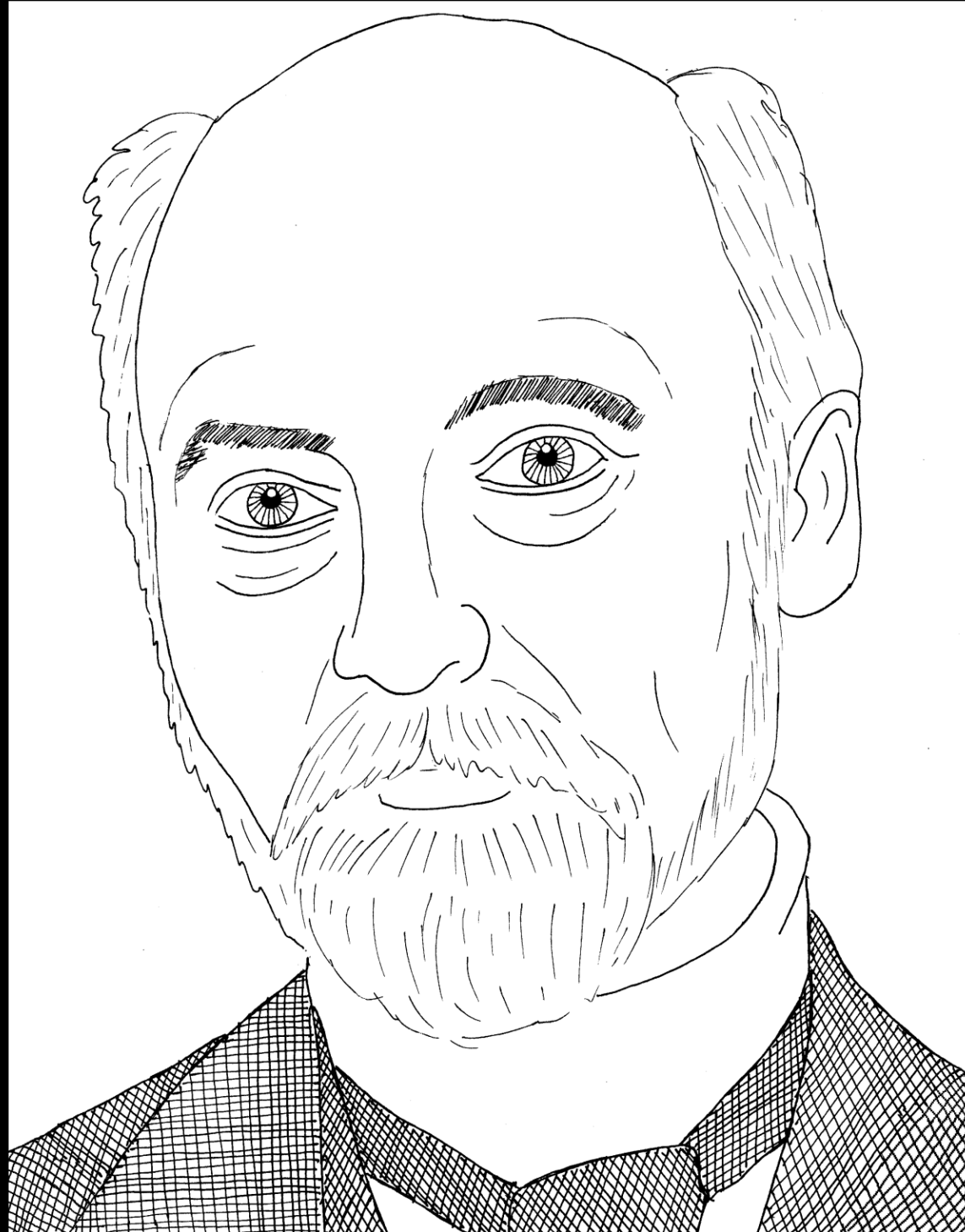
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**"Disarmament or limitation of armaments,
which depends on the progress made on security,
also contributes to the maintenance of peace."**

-- Ludwig Quidde

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"Land mines, torture equipment, cluster bombs, chemical weapons are weapons designed to inflict pain and death on human beings. Most victims are civilians, women and children. How can arms manufacturers, weapons designers, plant managers, politicians, who have families of their own whom they love, be so insensitive when it comes to the suffering of other human beings?"

-- José Ramos-Horta

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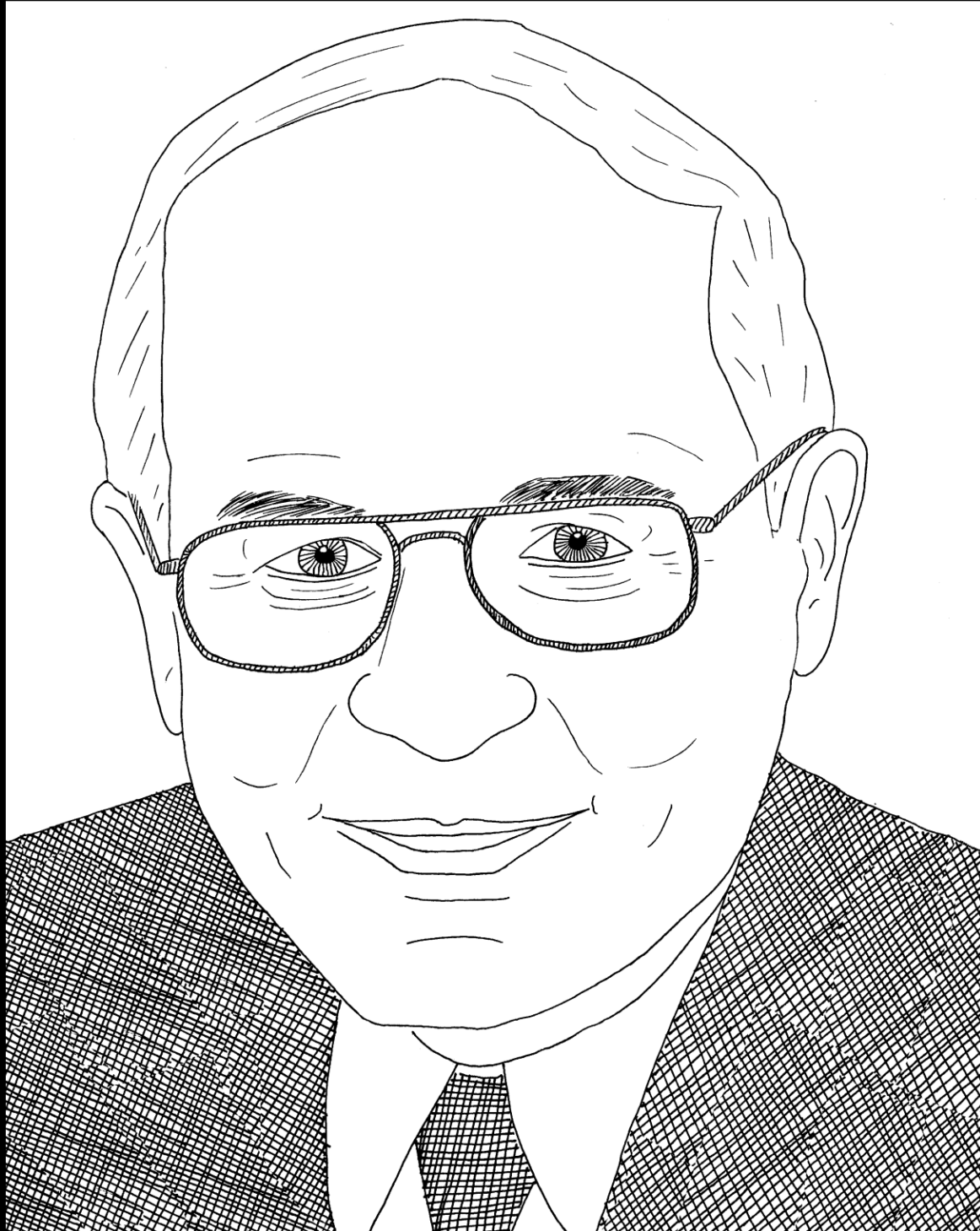
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"Extending social and economic development throughout the world and eliminating nuclear weapons from military arsenals are two fundamental prerequisites to replacing the culture of war with a culture of peace, and building true security for all the world's people."

-- Douglas Roche

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"Nuclear disarmament is not just an ardent desire of the people, as expressed in many resolutions of the United Nations. It is a legal commitment ... for the sake of humanity - we must get rid of all nuclear weapons."

-- Joseph Rotblat

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"If you are religious, then remember that this bomb is man's challenge to God. It's worded quite simply: We have the power to destroy everything you have created. If you're not religious, then look at it this way. This world of ours is four thousand, six hundred million years old. It could end in an afternoon."

-- Arundhati Roy

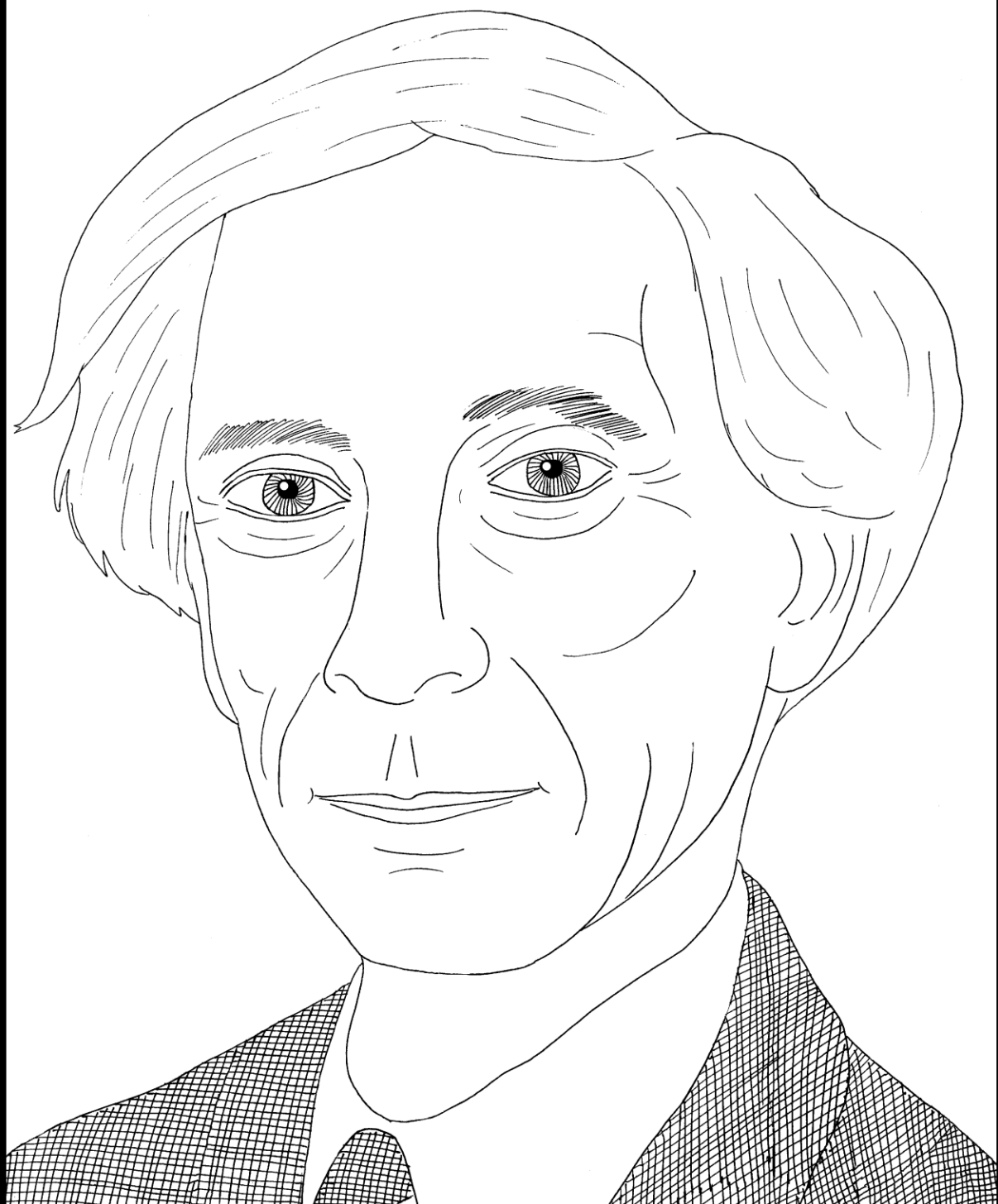
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"This idea of weapons of mass extermination is utterly horrible and is something which no one with one spark of humanity can tolerate."
-- Bertrand Russell

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"Except for fools and madmen, everyone knows that nuclear war would be an unprecedented human catastrophe."

-- Carl Sagan

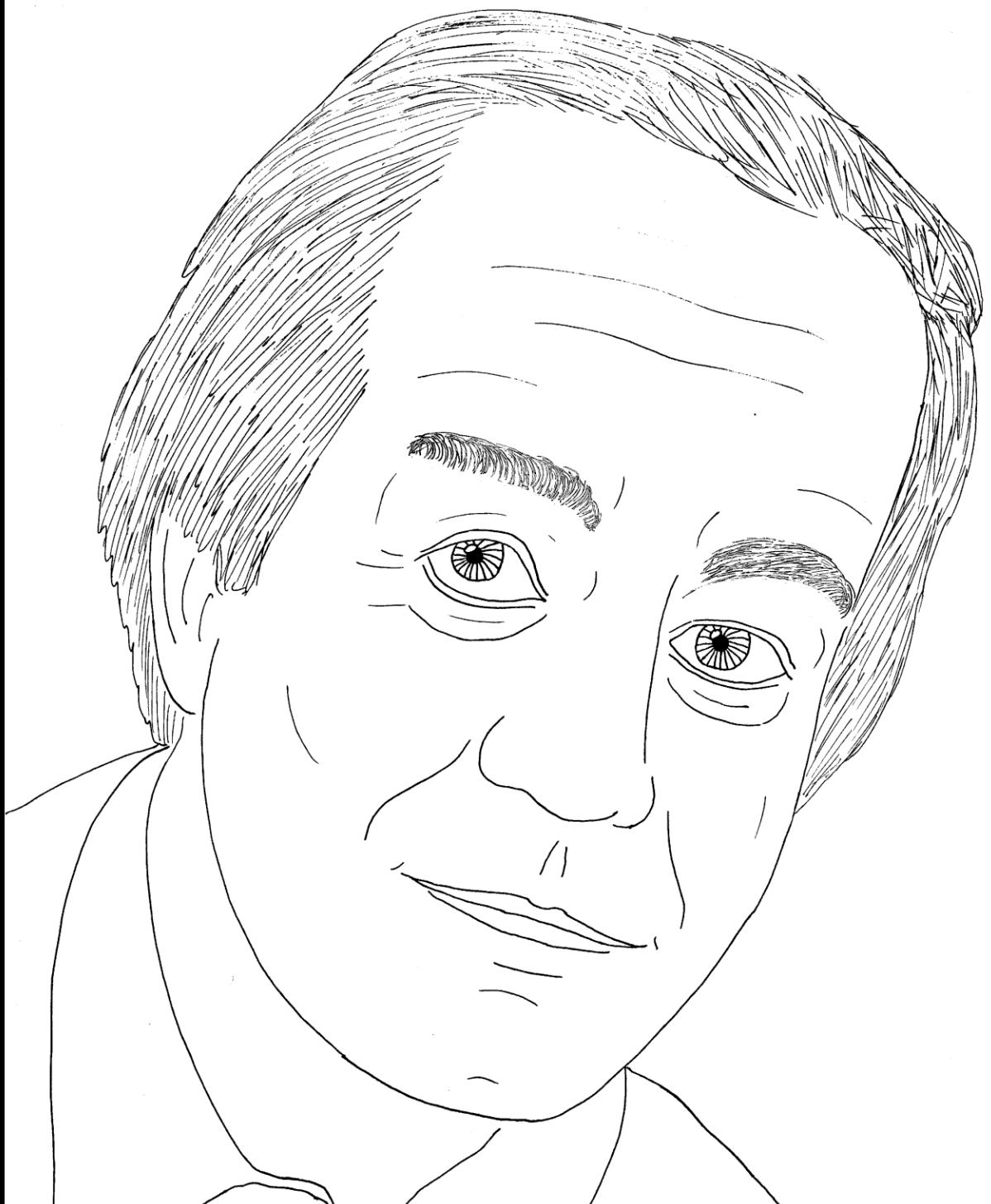
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"The use of a mere dozen nuclear weapons ... would be a human catastrophe without parallel... Because so few weapons can kill so many people, even far-reaching disarmament proposals would leave us implicated in plans for unprecedented slaughter of innocent people. The sole measure that can free us from this burden is abolition."

-- Jonathan Schell

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"Preparedness for war is an incentive to war, and the only hope of permanent peace is the systematic and scientific disarmament of all the nations of the world."

-- Anna Howard Shaw

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**"When I was growing up, it was 'Communists'.
Now it's 'Terrorists'. So you always have to have
somebody to fight and be afraid of, so the war machine
can build more bombs, guns, and bullets and everything."
-- Cindy Sheehan**

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**"We are the generation that brought the bomb in.
We have got to be the generation that should take it out."
-- Martin Sheen**

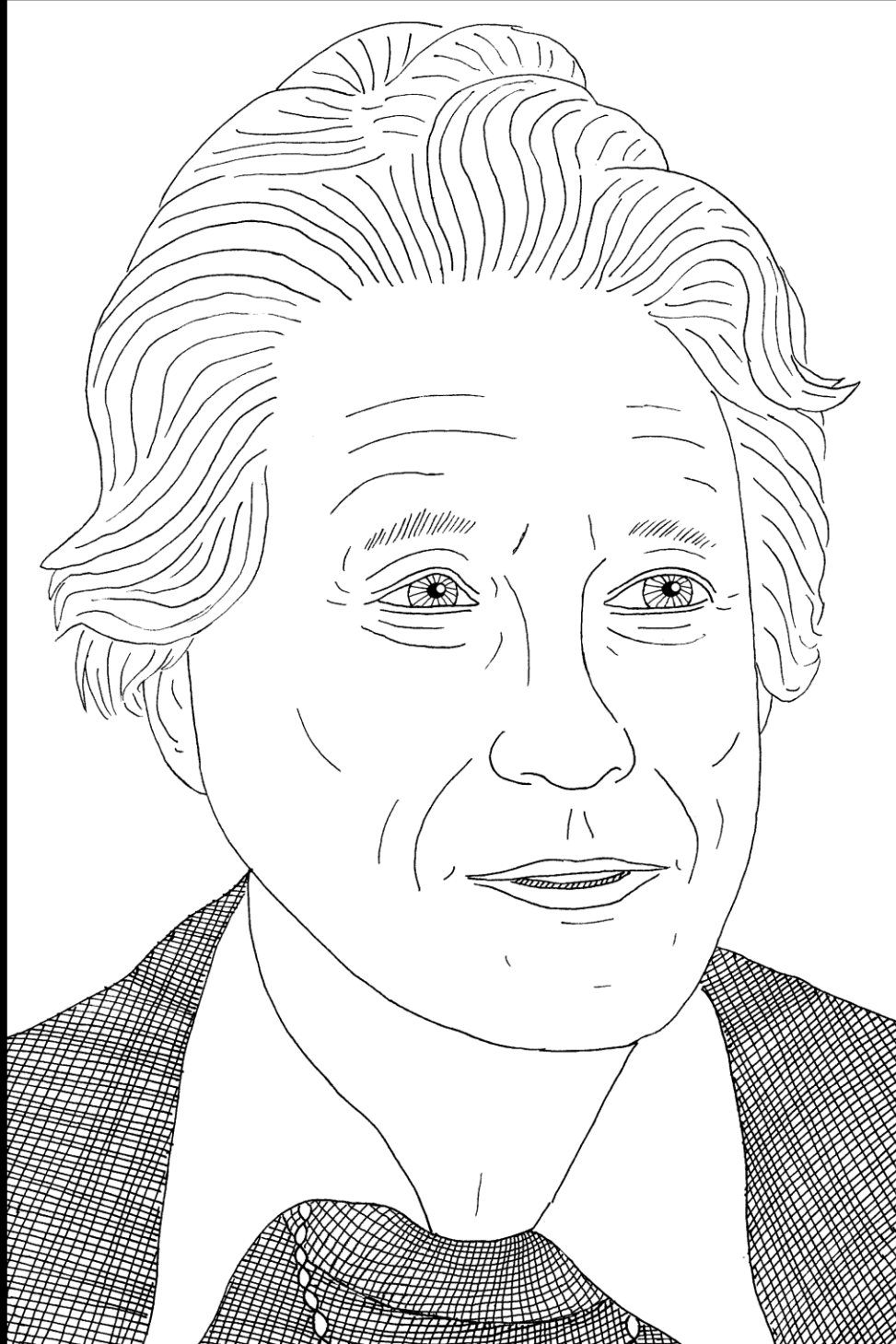
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"In the long run the purpose is to form a new security system in a world when nobody goes hungry because we spend money on armaments."

-- Inga Thorsson

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"The main reason we are held hostage by the most destructive technology on earth is simple: the complete lack of international resolve to ban nuclear weapons and banish them from the arsenals of the world."

-- Judge Christopher Weeramantry

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**"War and the preparation for war
rob resources from human security."**

-- Cora Weiss

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"We're trying to protect these communities from our own weapons of mass destruction. We didn't have to go to Iraq to find these things. They're right here."

-- Craig Williams

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**"The Second Amendment says we have the right to bear arms,
not to bear artillery."
-- Robin Williams**

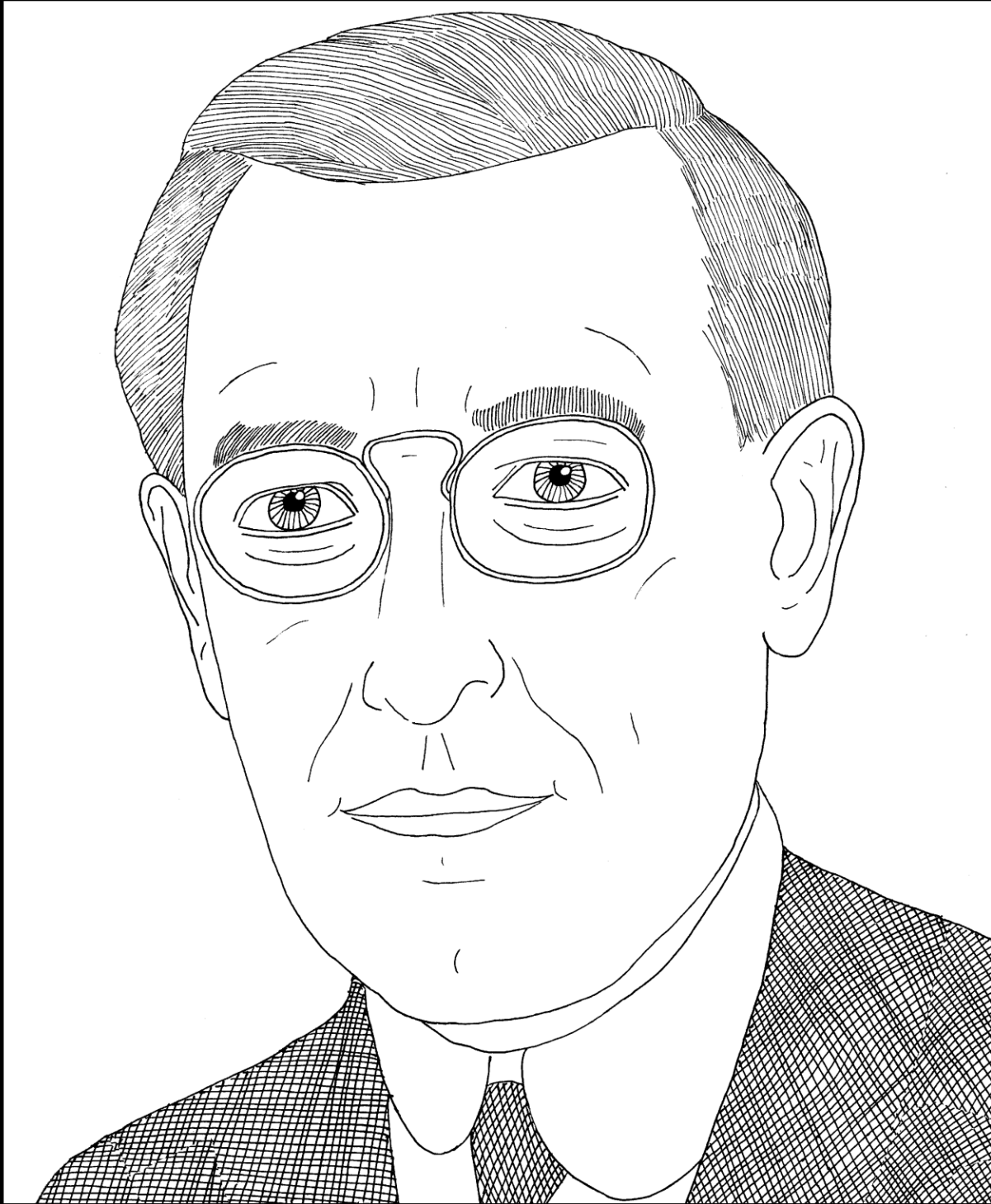
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**"The question of armaments, whether on land or sea,
is the most immediately and intensely practical question
connected with the future fortunes of nations and of mankind."**

-- Woodrow Wilson

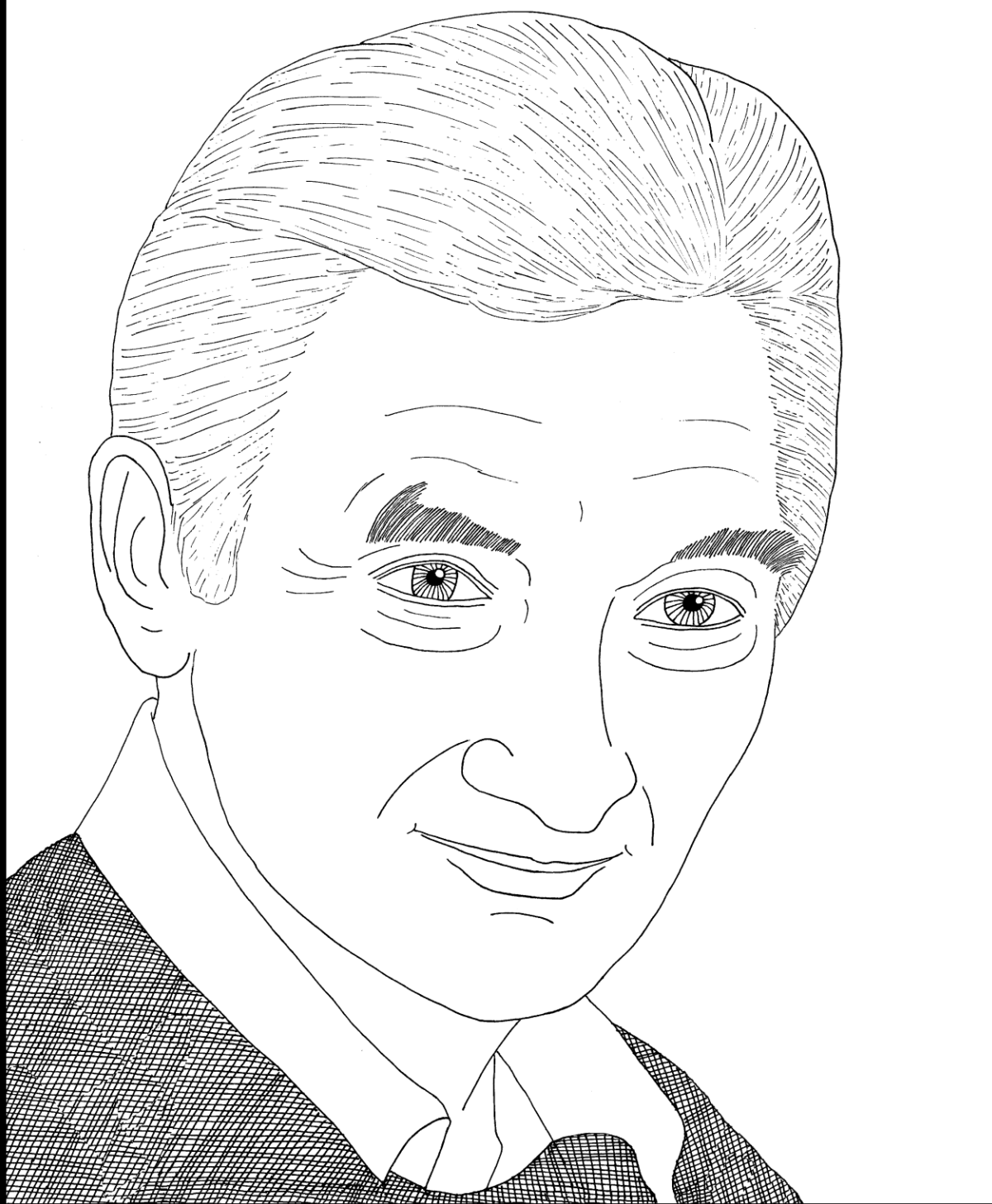
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"We need to rethink our position in the world. We need to stop sending weapons to countries that oppress other people. We need to decide that we will not go to war, whatever reason is conjured up by the politicians or the media, because war in our time is always indiscriminate, a war against innocents, a war against children.

War is terrorism, magnified a hundred times."

-- Howard Zinn

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<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"Our aim is to have a universal nuclear weapons convention signed by the year 2012 and ultimately eliminate nuclear weapons by the year 2025." -Madeleine Albright, Secretary of Peace</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"Above all else, we need a reaffirmation of political commitment at the highest levels to reduce the dangers that arise both from existing nuclear weapons and from further proliferation." -Kofi Annan</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"The existence of nuclear weapons presents a clear and present danger to life on Earth." -Oscar Arias</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"A reduction of global nuclear stockpiles to one-tenth of their present size is a realistic and achievable goal. It is a goal that should be pursued in a responsible and orderly manner. It is a goal that should be pursued in a responsible and orderly manner. It is a goal that should be pursued in a responsible and orderly manner." -Kofi Annan</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"As a doctor, as well as a mother and a world citizen, I wish to practice the ultimate form of preventive medicine by ending the earth of these technologies that propagate disease, suffering, and death." -Dr. Helen Caldicott</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>
<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"There is a very simple lesson for learning on the nuclear issue. Many, many times of all people, we need to be on one way or another, but we have ourselves got with nuclear weapons." -Alan Cranston</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"The noble task of arms control and disarmament cannot be accomplished by confrontation and condemnation. It must be achieved only through dialogue and negotiation. It must be achieved only through dialogue and negotiation. It must be achieved only through dialogue and negotiation." -The Bill Lane</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"Whenever arms flow, violence follows. It follows violence, wherever it is, because it is the result of political disputes." -Michael Douglas</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"The need to get our leaders to settle the negotiation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The United States must assume world leadership to end once and for all the threat of nuclear war. It is our moral responsibility." -Harrison Ford</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"It is my firm belief that the infinite and incurable love of nuclear weapons should never be held in the hands of any more mortal man than we." -Michael Gorbachev</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>
<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"Nuclear weapons proliferation will make of nations and their people who it is time to assert our right to live in a nuclear-free world." -Jonathan Green</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"We must create world-wide law and law enforcement as we outlaw world-wide war and weapons." -Jonathan Green</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"Whenever we meet to discuss the creation of the world power struggle from the nuclear weapons, we must remember that a Christian cannot responsibly support a business man's creation of the world power struggle for the purpose of making money and enjoying a life of luxury." -Jonathan Green</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"We all have choices. We can build out or we can build in. We can go on with our current course or we can change. We can go on with our current course or we can change. We can go on with our current course or we can change." -Alan Myrdal</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"An citizen activates the world over night, they can become an active citizen. They can become an active citizen. They can become an active citizen. They can become an active citizen. They can become an active citizen." -Donna Washburn</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>
<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"My physicians have focused on the nuclear threat as the singular cause of our peril. We are not a nation of doctors and they are not a nation of patients. We are not a nation of doctors and they are not a nation of patients. We are not a nation of doctors and they are not a nation of patients." -Jonathan Green</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"Long live all our brave soldiers who were born under calm skies. May they never be called to the horrors of war or danger." -Paul McCartney</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"The cause of Peace has had my share of effort, taking the life and the life of the world. It is a Christian cannot responsibly support a business man's creation of the world power struggle for the purpose of making money and enjoying a life of luxury." -Jonathan Green</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"There must be done in concrete forms in order to prevent the status of disarmament." -Alan Myrdal</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"The sheer folly of trying to defend a nation by destroying all life on the planet must be rejected to accept a world of nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons should never be held in the hands of any more mortal man than we." -Jonathan Green</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>
<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"The right to live and that we live in a nuclear-free world is a right that should be pursued in a responsible and orderly manner. It is a goal that should be pursued in a responsible and orderly manner. It is a goal that should be pursued in a responsible and orderly manner." -Jonathan Green</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"Extending health and economic development throughout the world and eliminating nuclear weapons from military arsenals are two fundamental responsibilities of the United States. We must get it done." -Jonathan Green</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"Nuclear disarmament is not just an end in itself, it is a process. It is a process that must be pursued in a responsible and orderly manner. It is a goal that should be pursued in a responsible and orderly manner. It is a goal that should be pursued in a responsible and orderly manner." -Jonathan Green</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"If you are original, remember that the world is not a machine. It is a machine that is not a machine. It is a machine that is not a machine. It is a machine that is not a machine." -Jonathan Green</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"Except for food and medicine, everyone knows that nuclear war would be an unprecedented human catastrophe." -Carl Sagan</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>
<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"The use of nuclear weapons is a threat to the survival of the human race. It is a threat that should be pursued in a responsible and orderly manner. It is a goal that should be pursued in a responsible and orderly manner. It is a goal that should be pursued in a responsible and orderly manner." -Jonathan Green</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"Preparation for war is an invitation to war, and the only hope of preventing war is the systematic and complete disarmament of all the nations of the world." -Anna Howard Shaw</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"We are the generation that brought the bomb in. We have got to be the generation that should take it out." -Richard Nixon</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"War and the preparation for our resources from human security." -Cora Weiss</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"We're trying to protect these communities from our own weapons of mass destruction. We don't have to try to live in Red Bess things. They're right here." -Carl Sagan</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>