



# STATEN ISLAND COUNCIL for PEACE AND JUSTICE

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CONTINUING the S.I. Peace Coalition, Founded 1968

## COUNCIL CRUNCHES NUKE PORT

CAPTAIN PIERCE: The next speaker will be Mr. Michael Tormey, Chairperson of the Staten Island Council for Peace and Justice.

MR. TORMEY: We are here to address the environmental impact of the proposed Stapleton nuclear missile base, and we will shortly address ourselves to that. But first we must point out that we were horrified to read in yesterday's Staten Island Advance some of the most bizarre and unstable comments ever uttered by Navy spokesmen. Rear Admiral William M. Fogarty, for example, was quoted as saying "There is an aura about a battleship. It's hard to explain unless you've been around it, but it's because of history, because of nations that understand power."

When he speaks of nations that understand power, we can only assume that he is referring to terrified Lebanese children who were decimated by the 16-inch guns of "his" battleship.

Next, we were treated to an example of the nuclear-armed mentality at work, in the form of a statement by Vice Admiral Thomas J. Hughes, who said, "We would like to keep the public discussion germane to issues of the added items and not get back into ground zero again."

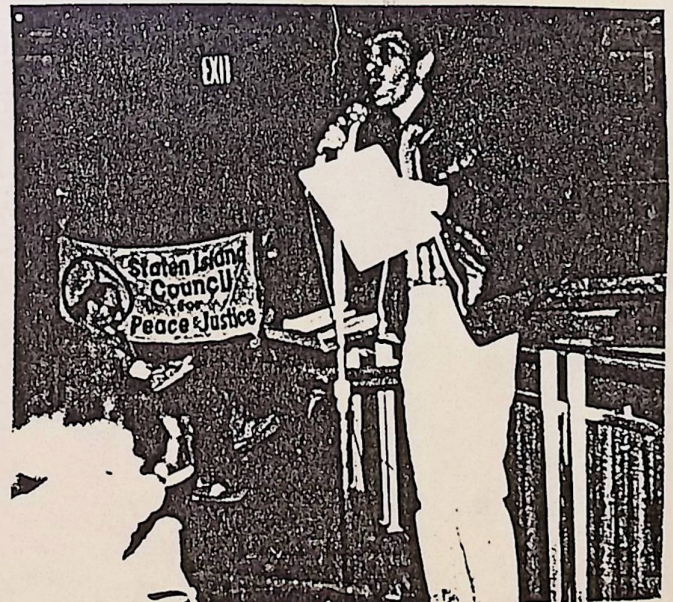
Does this man have any idea of what the term "ground zero" means? Could a man of his

authority not realize that "ground zero" is the point of detonation of a nuclear bomb? But perhaps he does realize and simply doesn't care.

He concludes by saying, "If it goes beyond that scope, I think we would just withdraw and say, 'Hey, we're here to address this point and if you don't want to address it, sayonara.'"

"Ground zero." "sayonara"; rich allusions to Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

So much for the Navy brass. Now a word about the people who wrote this spurious document. We note that one author has been dropped from the



Mike Tormey, Chair of SICPJ, addressing the Navy's Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement hearing on Jan. 27, 1986, in the Williamson Theater of the College of Staten Island.



themselves against an Internal Revenue Service claim of civil fraud in failing to pay over \$609 million in federal estate taxes.

Queens Borough President Donald Manes was an early supporter of the nuclear base, perhaps in the expectation that he could issue parking tickets against the IOWA.

Undersecretary of the Navy Robert Connor, a worthy predecessor of Ralph Lamberti as President of the Borough of Staten Island, made a mess of Staten Island, moved to a safer harbor in Maryland, and helped develop the plan to dump a nuclear Navy base on his old hometown. Presumably relatives of his who own commercially zoned property adjacent to the proposed base have no objection.

Secretary of the Navy John F. Lehman was an international arms dealer before he wound up his business to accept his Navy post. His business partner, Richard Perle, is now the Defense Department's man in charge of disarmament. The two are currently not on speaking terms, having quarreled over the division of the spoils upon the wind-up of their arms dealing enterprise.

You see, ladies and gentlemen, Secretary

Lehman was a man who made a fortune selling weapons. Small wonder he favors building a nuclear base in your back yard.

Then there is Susan Frank, appointed by Mayor Koch to head the Department of Ports and Terminals. Ms. Frank resigned her city post to return to Coastal Drydock, a ship repair company in which she and a brother own a 51 percent share, perhaps to help reap anticipated nuclear base goodies.

There is, however, one politician, who did not profit by his association with this missile base. Former appointed City Councilman Frank Fossella was the only New York City politician to make support for the nuclear base the centerpiece of his election campaign. He lost; proof positive that the people of our community don't want any part of this nuclear nightmare.

Not everyone who supports this nuclear missile base stands to profit from it. There are, of course, a few misguided souls who have been hoodwinked by the greedy war profiteers. There will always be a few such misguided souls.

But the majority is with us. The majority has taken a stand for peace and public safety, and the majority says, with one voice, loud and clear, "You shall not pass."

This statement is reprinted directly from pages 280 through 286 of the official transcript of the hearing on the nuclear navy port.