

MEMORANDUM:

TO: CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: FRANCIS X. HAYES
170 HARVARD STREET

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ABM SYSTEM

The City of Cambridge now finds itself in a position of possibly repeating the history of Dresden, Germany, during World War II. Dresden, long a center of learning in Germany, was not unlike Cambridge at present. Until early 1945 it had remained unscathed, free of the intense fire bombings which wracked the large metropolitan areas of the Third Reich. The folk lore of the war held that Dresden would not be bombed as long as Oxford was not attacked. Save for minor installations, the city was undefended. Only when the Russians were closing in on its suburbs, was the city bombed, bombed in the most ferocious attack of the entire war. The derivation and excuse for the execution of this attack by combined British and American forces to this day remains clouded in mystery. The excuse given at the time was one of major defenses moved into and around the city; later proven false.

The point of this appeal to the historical past being, even the Fascist barbarians, the Hitlers of World War II, had some respect for centers of learning, a respect which we must expect of any potential enemy. To surround the metropolitan area of Boston with a highly sophisticated missile system is to invite death. It would be the death, not only of a concentrated intelligentsia, but of a dense working population. In addition, the obliteration of a vast portion of America's physical historical heritage would be assured.

Some minds in this country would enjoy the destruction of this area of political liberalism. It appears as if the industrial defense combine has moved to make this possibility a definite reality in any all-out nuclear war.

The Cambridge City Council should act with dispatch in opposing the planned ABM system, mindful that history has shown that nations which live by the sword perish by it. It should further add its influence in working for the humanitarian use of local scientific research, which, while pure in itself is often used for the torturing and destruction of mankind.

Francis X. Hayes

City of Cambridge

Councillor Ackermann

6.

In City Council,
February 24, 1969.

WHEREAS:-

The United States Department of Defense and the President of the United States did designate Camp Curtis Guild - located in parts of Reading, Lynnfield and Wakefield - as the site of the nation's first Sentinel Anti-Ballistic Missile System, and

WHEREAS:-

The City of Cambridge and other cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth and nation are experiencing great financial crises which can only be relieved by devoting a greater portion of our national resources to the solution of the problems afflicting our cities and towns; by curtailing non-essential defense spending and by returning more of the federal revenues to the cities and towns, and

WHEREAS:-

Senator Edward M. Kennedy, knowledgeable scientists, and other residents of Metropolitan Boston, the Commonwealth and other parts of the country have questioned both the technical justification of this so-called "Thin Missile" system, and the \$5 to \$6 billion expenditure necessary to build it, and

WHEREAS:-

Many citizens of Reading, Lynnfield and Wakefield expressed concern about the possible impact such an installation might have on their communities, and

WHEREAS:-

Many citizens of Cambridge also expressed alarm at the potential danger to the City of Cambridge and to other heavily populated cities and towns by the installation of such a site within the Boston metropolitan area, and

WHEREAS:-

Defense Secretary Melvin Laird, in response to said public pressures, has recently said he may move the site and cut down on the size of the program, thereby suggesting that this enormously expensive program was undertaken last year without sufficient proof that it was absolutely necessary, and

WHEREAS:-

It is in the interest of the City of Cambridge to participate in the development of a unified response by the cities and towns in the Boston metropolitan area to the various questions posed by the proposed Anti-Ballistic Missile System and sites selected for that System, and

WHEREAS:-

The Boston City Council has adopted a resolution instructing its Committee on Public Welfare to explore the feasibility of establishing a Metropolitan Boston Elected Officials Emergency Council on this matter,

City of Cambridge

-2-

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL THAT:

1. We support the positions taken by both Senators Edward M. Kennedy and Edward W. Brooke urging a full reconsideration by President Nixon of the decision to build the Sentinel Anti Ballistic Missile site, and the position taken by Senator Edward M. Kennedy in calling for a freeze on any further expenditures of funds or development at Camp Curtis Guild for the proposed Sentinel Anti-Ballistic Missile System, pending a full review by the Congress and President, which freeze is presently in effect pursuant to orders of the Secretary of Defense;
2. We instruct the City Manager to communicate with the chairman of the Boston City Council Committee on Public Welfare, and to offer the cooperation of the City of Cambridge in efforts to develop a unified response by the cities and towns in the Boston metropolitan area to the various questions posed by the proposed Anti-Ballistic Missile System and sites selected for that System;
3. We respectfully request our congressman and senators, when considering authorization and appropriations for anti-ballistic systems and for other defense programs, that they consider the critical plight of our cities and town and the plight of the taxpayer.

Case
A
RP
A

City Council February 24, 1969

Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 8 members

Paul E. Healy
City Clerk

S-38
6.

RESOLVE

Relative to proposed Anti-Ballistic
Missile System and sites selected for
that System

February 24, 1969

Mrs. Ackermann