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EDITORIAL

It bears repeating

In a letter to the editors of the Vineyard Gazette, published September 13, 1983, Sayre Sheldon, president of Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament of Gay Head, quotes from David Broder's column in the Boston Globe.

And Mr. Broder was quoting from a previously unpublished letter that President Eisenhower wrote in 1956 to Richard L. Simon, then head of Simon & Schuster. While the opinion expressed by President Dwight David Eisenhower to Richard Simon has been a long time pigeon-holed, his thoughts are no less pertinent today than they were 27 years ago.

"... the true security problem of the day . . . is not merely against man, or nation against nation. It is man against war." It was Ike's opinion that "we are rapidly getting to the point

that no war can be won. War implies a contest: when you get to the point that contest is no longer involved, and the outlook comes close to destruction of the enemy and suicide for our selves—an outlook that neither side can ignore—then arguments as to the exact amount of available strength compared to somebody else's are no longer the vital issues."

Nearly thirty years later, our world, to its everlasting shame, possesses many thousand times the capacity for destruction and suicide than when President Eisenhower recognized mankind's need to fight, not men of other nations, but war itself.

The truth in his vision grows more apparent with each passing hour.