I Am Going Because . . .

I am going because, as Shakespeare said, “Action is eloquence.” Without some such direct action, ordinary citizens lack the power any longer to be seen or heard by their government.

I am going because it is time to do something about peace, not just talk about peace.

I am going because, like all men, in my heart I know that all nuclear explosions are monstrous, evil, unworthy of human beings.

I am going because war is no longer a fuedal jousting match; it is an unthinkable catastrophe for all men.

I am going because it is now the little children, and, most of all, the as-yet-unborn who are the front-line troops. It is my duty to stand between them and this horrible danger.

I am going because it is cowardly and degrading for me to stand by any longer, to consent, and thus to collaborate in atrocities.

I am going because I cannot say that the end justifies the means. A Quaker, William Penn, said, “A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil that good may come of it.” A communist, Milovan Djilas, says, “As soon as means which would ensure an end are shown to be evil, the end will show itself as unrealizable.”

I am going because, as Gandhi said, “God sits in the man opposite me; therefore to injure him is to injure God himself.”

I am going to witness to the deep inward truth we all know, “Force can subdue, but love gains.”

I am going because however mistaken, unrighteous, and unrepentant governments may seem, I still believe all men are really good at heart, and that my act will speak to them.

I am going in the hope of helping change the hearts and minds of men in government. If necessary I am willing to give my life to help change a policy of fear, force and destruction to one of trust, kindness, and help.

I am going in order to say, “Quit this waste, this arms race. Turn instead to a disarmament race. Stop competing for evil, compete for good.

I am going because I have to - if I am to call myself a human being.

When you see something horrible happening, your instinct is to do something about it. You can freeze in fearful apathy or you can even talk yourself into saying that it isn’t horrible. I can’t do that. I have to act. This is too horrible. We know it. Let’s all act.

I