



MRS. POMERANCE

CLOSEUP

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For a Disarmed World

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In the years just after the war, Jo Pomerance's three kids came home from school in Cos Cob, Conn., one afternoon—terrified. "They were just beginning air raid drills," she recalls. "The kids were told not

to look out the window or they might be blinded, and they were led down into the basement. My kids came home and had nightmares about bombs dropping. And I thought, as a mother, that one should at least do something to prevent having all children disturbed by this kind of a menace."

Last week—"Nuclear Week" in New York—Mrs. Josephine Wertheim Pomerance received the "Swords into Plowshares" Award for her efforts "to secure interest and support within the U.S. for the [nuclear] non-proliferation treaty, and the peaceful uses of atomic energy."

To get that award, Jo Pomerance had devoted four unpaid days a week for most of the last 20 years to a succession of organizations that have worked toward the major goal of nuclear disarmament.

Right now she inhabits a little cubbyhole of an office at the UN Assn. of the U.S. on E. 46th St., from which she heads the association's disarmament division.

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Her work involves a great deal of research, organizing conferences and study groups, and the publicizing of the results—as well as making speeches, testifying before Congress and observing the United Nations activities in the disarmament field.

In 1966, for example, Jo Pomerance recalls, "I got up a committee on non-proliferation—I did a report on peacekeeping for them—we wrote out a statement on what was needed to break the deadlock at the 18-nation disarmament conference at Geneva."

Right afterward, the U.S. and Soviet nego-

tiators met and, for the first time, Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko announced there was "hope" for a treaty.

Politics, and even the idea of disarmament, came easily to Jo Pomerance because she was exposed to both issues as a child. ("I often wonder if I got the disarmament bug by osmosis," she says "because my uncle, Henry Morgenthau Jr., had a plan for the disarmament of Germany when he was Secretary of the Treasury.")

Her parents, Alma Morgenthau (whose interest was music) and banker Maurice Wertheim (a Theater Guild director) brought up Jo and her two sisters in New York City private schools before moving to the family home in Cos Cob.

(Her sisters are both authors—Nan Simon, wife of the developer of the new city of Reston, Va., and Barbara Tuchman, the historian of whom Jo says "she writes about war and I work for peace.")

After Smith, Jo was admitted to Columbia's medical school, "but I decided I couldn't bear to cut up a stiff . . . so I didn't go . . . I got married."

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After an abortive attempt at reporting for the old Brooklyn Eagle and participation in "various reform movements . . . let's leave it at that . . ." Mrs. Pomerance settled down to raise her children while husband Ralph Pomerance became a prominent New York architect.

Now that the non-proliferation treaty is about to be endorsed by the UN, and, she says, "our information is that there will be no serious Senate opposition," Mrs. Pomerance is prepared to turn her attention to what she believes to be the next vital stepping-stone on the path to total disarmament—the strengthening of the UN role in peacemaking operations. She says:

"You can't remove national defenses without substituting something else, and the only thing there is is a strengthened world peace-keeping machinery, through the United Nations."

"And don't forget," she tells doubters, "two years ago nobody thought we'd get a non-proliferation treaty."