

**Постоянное  
представительство  
Российской Федерации  
при Организации  
Объединённых Наций**



**Permanent Mission  
of the Russian  
Federation  
to the United Nations**

*136E 67th Street  
New York, NY 10021*

---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**January 19, 2006**

### **ON PRESENTATION OF THE WORLD CITIZENS AWARD TO STANISLAV PETROV**

On January 19, 2006, former Russian colonel Stanislav Petrov will receive an award from the Association of World Citizens “for a unique act of heroism that saved the world”. According to representatives of the Association in 1983 Petrov did not react to an erroneous computer warning of a US missile attack on the Soviet Union and thus “saved the world from nuclear war”.

It is not a secret that warnings of missile launches took place both in the Soviet Union and in the United States. Often natural phenomena like flocks of birds or the Northern Lights were taken as ICBMs. Under no circumstances a decision to use nuclear weapons could be made or even considered in the Soviet Union (Russia) or in the United States on the basis of data from a single source or a system. For this to happen, a confirmation is necessary from several systems: ground-based radars, early warning satellites, intelligence reports, etc. Therefore, even if one officer “had reported a satellite signal about an incoming nuclear missile”, the nuclear war would have never started. Besides, one should keep in mind that both in the United States and in the Soviet Union

(Russia) the information automatically fed from satellites is directed to various recipients, and a single hero or miscreant cannot stop it.

It is also worth mentioning that soon ten years will pass since the Russian Federation and the United States agreed not to aim active duty ICBMs against each other. In the language of experts that means that “a missile does not have mission input data” or “zero mission input data”. Thus, none of the sides can launch an ICBM against the other side as a result of an error or due to other virtual reasons.