

U.S. conducts the year's 1st nuclear test

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS, Nev. - The United States conducted its first nuclear test of 1987 on Tuesday, ignoring warnings it would spark a resumption of Soviet testing and surprising protesters who expected it later in the week.

Anti-nuclear groups claimed the test was moved up from Thursday because of pending protests at the remote desert site. An Energy Department spokesman said that was one of many factors in conducting the shot ahead of schedule.

The Soviet Union has said it would end a unilateral test moratorium after the first U.S. test in 1987. The United States has announced more than 20 underground nuclear tests since the Soviets began their moratorium in 1985.

The Reagan administration says continued testing is necessary to keep up with the Soviets and for research on its space-based missile defense system.

Death card is new tack for anti-smokers

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The anti-smoking movement has a new gimmick: black-bordered death announcements that tell congressmen one of their constituents has died of a tobacco-related illness.

The physicians who started the campaign hope the death notices will personalize some of the 350,000 deaths of current and former smokers attributed each year to lung cancer, emphysema and heart disease as Congress considers tobacco legislation.

The tobacco industry called the announcements "media hype" and a "grotesque exploitation of personal tragedy," an analysis that angered physicians who intend to send the postcards to Washington.

"I'm tired of" patients "who smoke for 30-40 years, then die or have emphysema. I get tired of telling a 35-year-old man who smoked three packs a day since age 12 that he has lung cancer," Dr. Mark Glassner of Wilmington, Del., said.

"I've made the diagnosis of lung cancer four times in the last month," said Dr. Luke Burchard of Mattoon, Ill. "None of those people will see next Christmas. And the average age there is 55."

Glassner and Burchard are members of DOC, Doctors Ought to Care, a group with 4,000 members nationwide that has mod-

eled the postcard campaign after a similar effort in Great Britain in 1984. Ten thousand cards were printed just last week, and DOC President John Richards of Augusta, Ga., said he had requests for 700 cards even before he notified members.

The black-rimmed postcard says:

"Dear (name);

"I wish to inform you that one of your constituents, who was a patient of mine, has died. The death was due to (lung cancer, chronic obstructive lung disease, coronary heart disease, other tobacco-related cancer or vascular disease).

"This person was a (brand) smoker.

"From time to time, I know you are approached by representatives of the tobacco industry requesting support for some legislation that would benefit them. I hope you will keep this death in mind as you consider whether or not to support this legislation."

The doctor then signs his name and address.

"If you get a postcard telling you someone just died from smoking, I think it'll have an impact. It's a little different from 'Save Social Security,'" said John Hollar, legislative assistant to Rep. Mike Synar, D-Okla., who plans to introduce a bill to ban tobacco advertising.

Dear _____
I wish to inform you that one of your constituents, who was a patient of mine has died. The death was due to the following disease

- _____ lung cancer.
- _____ chronic obstructive lung disease
- _____ coronary heart disease
- _____ other tobacco-related cancer or vascular disease

This person was a _____ smoker. Tobacco smoking is the major avoidable cause of this disease

From time to time, I know you are approached by representatives of the tobacco industry requesting your support for some legislation that would benefit them. I hope you keep this death in mind as you consider whether or not to support this legislation

Sincerely
signed _____
address _____

Doctors Ought to Care
HH-101
Medical College of Georgia
Augusta, Georgia 30912

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Death announcement doctors plan to send to lawmakers

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