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## NATIONAL SECURITY

# Nuclear threat not likely to come from sky

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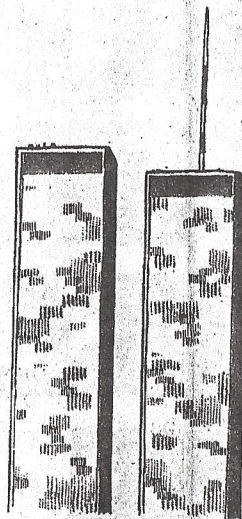
Our elected officials still don't get it.

We are scared. U.S. politicians, from President Bush on down, are abdicating their responsibility for the safety of the American people. The price we may pay is horrific to contemplate.

We hoped that Sept. 11 would be a wake-up call for Americans to protect themselves from those who hate us. But neither prayers, nor flag waving, nor the limited response of Congress have made us appreciably safer than we were on Sept. 11. What happened on that day will seem like a picnic in the park compared to the devastation that slightly more sophisticated forms of terrorism can bring.

Sixty years ago, the brilliant and prescient Hungarian-American nuclear physicist Leo Szilard, wrote "The position of the United States may be adversely affected by the existence of nuclear bombs. ... Clearly if such bombs are available, it

### TWO REASONS WHY MISSILE DEFENSE WON'T WORK



but rather the relatively simple scenario envisioned by Szilard.

While the issue of antiballistic missile defense is extremely

knowledge from impoverished former Soviet nuclear engineers, from scientists in the Pakistani nuclear

there are, where they live, or what they are doing, and therein lies the problem. If only a small fraction of these people wish to harm the United States, we are exquisitely vulnerable to another Sept. 11.

Poll after poll after poll of the American people show that, for many reasons, we want legal immigration to be greatly reduced and an end to illegal immigration. Why won't Congress listen to the people?

Unfortunately, the Democratic Party wants its cheap votes and most Republican leaders want their cheap labor. Thus, even after Sept. 11, it's business as usual in Congress and for President Bush. Pushing for unregulated and uninspected Mexican trucks to enter and drive anywhere in the United States, or for the amnesty of millions of illegal aliens is not going to make the United States a safer place to live.

As scientists we understand, as Szilard did 60 years ago, that nothing can make the United States