Once...

The surface of the earth looked like this...

and in places, like this...

Almost every country had its own Bomb.

If you've got a Bomb you're supposed to test it.

Like to see if it works.

It works.

After each explosion the test areas were filled by government scientists who took readings and checked their instruments and issued a definitive statement.

"This test has added no appreciable amount of radio active fallout to the atmosphere."

But the skies began to grow darker

Naturally the more tests there were the better the Bombs got to be.

and people noticed it and said:

"I guess the government must have its sound reasons."

and went about their business.

Of course there was more going on than just Bomb Tests.
For instance, as soon as one country discovered a bigger Bomb than its neighbor the first thing it did was call a disarmament conference.
and make a proposal —

"Let's all stop where we are right now. All those in favour of peace say 'aye!'"

and all the other countries replied,

"We agree, just as soon as we catch up."

So there was a deadlock.

But the conferences continued,

while more and more countries developed their own bomb and naturally all of them had to be invited.

and even some towns...

and even:

Each test, no matter how small, was carefully checked for after effects. 'This test has added no appreciable amount of radio active fallout to the atmosphere.'

and people heard the news and said:

"That's the way the onion peels."

and went about their business.
But now the skies began to look like this

The government began to get worried...

But the campaign had no effect. People got more and more concerned.

Then the public relations outfit changed its tactics.

The public responded sympathetically. "WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK AT LAST" said the public relations outfit.

Industry thrived.
World economy boomed.
The problem of overpopulation seemed somehow to diminish.
With the thickening of the specks, new businesses were born. The world grew rich. Education prospered. Art flourished.

It was a new renaissance.

But soon countries grew fat and complacent. Bomb production dropped off. And then— one day—the black specks began to disappear.

**MARKET SLUMP!**

**BUSINESS DECLINE**

**IT'S HIGH TIME WE HAD NEW TESTS!**

So while half the people in the world worked on new improved Bombs—

the other half worked on salves, medication, storm windows.

And people saw the situation and said:

"THAT'S THE WAY THE SPEARMINT CHEWS."

and went about their business.

"WHAT A DETERRENT FOR PEACE" said men on the inside. But propagandists in other countries planted seeds of doubt.

So it was decided. A referendum was announced.

**STAND BEHIND YOUR GOVERNMENT. IT KNOWS WHAT'S BEST!**

The test was given an overwhelming mandate. The people said:

"NOW IS NO TIME TO SHOW LACK OF UNITY."

Men on the inside campaigned vigorously.

"GENTLEMEN, I MAY BE TALKING OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD— BUT I THINK I'VE DREAMED UP A BOMB THAT WILL BLOW UP THE WHOLE WORKS!"

So the men on the inside got together—

"THIS DETERRENT WILL NEVER BE EFFECTIVE UNTIL WE TEST IT!"

But nobody wanted to take the blame. "HEY!" said somebody. "WHY DON'T WE TAKE THE QUESTION TO THE PEOPLE!"

**THIS TEST WILL ADD NO APPRECIABLE AMOUNT OF RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT TO THE ATMOSPHERE.**
So they had the test.

BOOM

and it worked.