

Hydrogen bombs' oddly flickering light

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- *From:* "msadkins04@xxxxxxxxxx" <msadkins04@xxxxxxxxxx>
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http://youtube.com/watch?v=-gYBvSx_wCA

Recently I was watching this video, which I gather was a disarmament anthem from the 1980s, though at the time I first saw it I wasn't sure about the meaning of the lyrics, and at about 2' 20" into the video, there is a bit that I found rather clever for a rock music video.

The singer is presented in profile and a weirdly flickering light illuminates his face. For some reason, this reminded me of the light following a hydrogen bomb explosion as seen from a great distance shortly after initiation. (My recollection is of some high-altitude film taken over test sites, which featured a kind of oddly illuminated and flickering shock-bubble which settled out after the first few seconds of the explosion, but to me this looks strongly suggestive of what such light might look like seen from a point on the ground, at night, at some distance over the horizon.) The singer's head seems to become translucent at some point -- I'm not sure what this intends, since human beings can't see in the X-ray spectrum; it might simply be a defect in the video-effects process. At about 2' 32" there is a brilliant flash of light together with a shock wave, which suggests the explosion of another bomb at a closer distance. The dark clouds obscuring the sun suggest some sort of nuclear winter scenario, so perhaps it isn't actually intended to be nighttime.

At any rate, I don't suppose there is anyone out there who can shed light on whether this is a reasonable interpretation, or how realistic a representation this is?