No arms moratorium

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to Professor Feld's talk, especially to his suggestion that we adopt a unilateral new arms deployment moratorium. As I did not attend his lecture, my response is based on the report in last Tuesday's The Tech.

In 1965, Defense Secretary McNamara stated the nuclear vastly inferior "... Soviets have decided that they have lost the quantitatively race, and they are not seeking to engage us in that contest." As of 1967, the US froze deployment at 1,054 ICBM's and 656 SLBM's. In the five years that followed Soviet ICBM's went from 460 to 1,527 and SLBM's from 130 to 560.

Today, whatever arguments exist about budgets and exchange rates, "The USSR is ahead of the US in strategic weaponry. US technical superiority in some areas reduces the awesomeness of the bare figures, but in terms of sheer military weight, the Soviets have taken the lead." According to Lt. Gen Daniel O. Graham, a former Defense Intelligence Agency head.

Dr. Fred Ikle, outgoing Disarmament boss, notes "If Soviet programs were merely a reaction to ours, their strategic budget would have declined over the last 15 years. Because this is what ours did; they would have stopped deploying ICBM's when their rate reached 1000... because we stopped at 1000... etc."

From his remarks about Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD), I will venture to assume that Feld, while not a Walker Crucible thinker (there are enough brains around to "obfuscate the world a hundred times over."). supports the central premise of MAD, that both the USSR and US have enough weapons to ensure the seced party will be able to inflict an unacceptable amount of damage on the first, attacking party. This would explain why he favors a moratorium. The moratorium will hurt the US.

But why, then, does the economically hardpressed Soviet Union divert such vast resources (30 percent of their production, if you believe Solzhenitsyn) to further military build-up, if the concept of superiority is meaning less, as Kissinger claims?

C.M. Haasland and E.P. Wigner respond that "... If their elaborate civil defense plans are executed, the entire US striking force will not be able to destroy more than a small fraction of the Soviet population, much smaller than the number of Soviets killed in World War II." Lord Chalfont, Harold Wilson's Agency head, with civil defense. "Given the bare figures, but in terms of Soviet military analysis, that technical superiority in some 1964-70, asserts '. . . continued military analysis that nuclear war is a risk that has to be faced and therefore prepared for... There is evidence of a persistent Soviet preoccupation with civil defense..." Given that the USSR murdered over six million of its own people just to collectivize agriculture, frightening possibilities emerge.

As regards the specific suggestion, I'm sorry Prof. Feld, I don't just think it would work.

Ron Feigenblatt, G
March 8, 1977

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