Nation

Columbia fares well — After landing safely in California's Mojave Desert Saturday, the space shuttle Columbia suffered "considerably less" visible wear and tear on its second flight than on its first, according to Columbia shuttle officials. The exact mechanism of the fuel cell failure which caused the premature return of the shuttle is still being determined until the reusable spacecraft is back at the launching base. Officials reported that the shuttle should be ready for another trip in March.

Rathjens attacks Reagan's plan

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that I think is not fully appreciated by the Administration," Rathjens said. He believed "a US initiative to freeze the nuclear arms race where it is occurring with more attention to the business of our conventional forces and to solving our own economic problems, would impress others more and do more to improve relations within the Alliance than greater expenditures on new strategic systems."

Rathjens concluded his remarks with brief comments on the individual components of President Reagan's weapons package. He termed the MX "a missile looking for a satisfactory basing mode," and the D-5 "a missile invented to impress others more and do more than great expenditures would" and the MX "a missile looking for a satisfactory basing mode." He termed the MX "a missile looking for a satisfactory basing mode," and the D-5 "a missile invented to impress others more and do more than great expenditures would."

Rathjens considered the B-1 "preferable to the MX and D-3 missiles in that it is likely to be militarily useful: it will be able to carry conventional ordnance." He doubted, however, that it would be cost-effective.

Rathjens ended with "what has been the least controversial, yet, perhaps, the most dangerous, component of the President's package: the improvement of C3I (command, control, communications, and intelligence) capabilities." Rathjens explained that C3I improvements are dangerous because they increase the apparent feasibility of a limited nuclear war. "If war that with massive expenditure there is some possibility that responsible political leaders might be persuaded, mistakenly in my view, that flexible, controlled use of nuclear weapons would be a realistic option: one of acceptable risk. The result could be the greatest tragedy the world has known."

For the fifteen years before he came to MIT in 1964, and again in 1979, Rathjens served in Washington with the Department of State and Defense, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, the office of the President's Science Advisor, and the Institute for Defense Analysis. He is a member of the International Pugwash Committee. He has served as chairman of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and past chairman of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has also served as chairman of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.