Deutch discusses arms report

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Q: Congress rejected the dense-pack plan in December. What are the prospects of the Minuteman plan?
A: The commission's report proposes placing 100 MX missiles in Minuteman silos. Since we support the other two, the third proposal would be to have a diverse of opinion and tolerance of issues. This is a very complicated and difficult question. Universities should welcome both sides. I take pride that Jerry Weisner and myself are on opposite sides. I do not expect every individual at MIT in the United States to reach the same judgment as the commission members. I've never found any hostility from any of my colleagues on my support on the commission or about the views I hold.

Q: Can we encourage compliance of a freeze structure which reduces the advantage of surprise attack?
A: I believe very much that it is important for a university to have a diversity of opinion and tolerance of issues. This is a very complicated and difficult question. Universities should welcome both sides. I take pride that Jerry Weisner and myself are on opposite sides. I do not expect every individual at MIT in the United States to reach the same judgment as the commission members. I've never found any hostility from any of my colleagues on my support on the commission or about the views I hold.

Q: How strong is support for the report in Congress?
A: The commission's report was to go to the president for consideration. I was secretary of the Department of Energy during the Carter Administration, and I am a known Democrat. Evidently I assume the motivation in asking me to serve on the panel was that I was a technical person and I had served in a prior Democratic administration. I was for many years a member of the Defense Science Board, and I had not spoken on the MX issue before — I was not identified pro or con on the MX.

Q: How did the commission react to Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's rejection of Reagan's plan to limit missiles in Europe?
A: We would hope the administration would adjust its control strategy and force modernization — the prospect of greater stability.