Warnke addresses MIT faculty panel on nuclear arms race issues

By Becca Munroe

Paul Warnke, chief US negotiator for Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT II), addressed issues of the nuclear arms race with an MIT faculty panel last Tuesday night.

The forum was originally intended to be a debate on national peace issues between a Republican representative and Warnke, a representative for Democratic presidential candidate Walter F. Mondale. No Republican representative, however, appeared.

Warnke began his speech by mentioning decisions and talks between the United States and the Soviet Union. He posed the question: What kind of a tradeoff would the United States need to make to ensure peace of mind? He maintained: "A freeze is a perfectly safe and verifiable thing to do," he said.

He concluded his talk by saying that arms reduction is "...the only course for the security of the United States and the survival of the planet." President Emeritus of MIT Jerome Wiesner opened the panel discussion, saying it would be easy for both nuclear weapons to destroy all the major cities on the planet. "A freeze is a perfectly safe and verifiable thing to do," he maintained.

Warnke agreed with Wiesner that a freeze was a good idea, but he said, "It doesn't make sense to do it all at once and nothing later." Joseph Weizenbaum, a professor of electrical engineering, countered: "I am convinced we would have World War III if we had no threat of nuclear weapon use." He added that no one should assume there will be peace merely by eliminating nuclear weapons.

Warnke said, however, that nuclear weapons increase the chance of war because they create fear. He said that the presence of nuclear weapons increase the chance of war because they create fear.

Richard Battin, professor of aeronautical and astronautical engineering, countered: "I am convinced we would have World War III if we had no threat of nuclear weapon use." He added that no one should assume there will be peace merely by eliminating nuclear weapons.

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In the forum marked the fourth annual awareness week of nuclear arms reduction. IBM will be here in strength to give you blue carpet treatment.

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