MIT researchers test new breakthrough skin

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- Fear of being outnumbered in a certain type of armament, such as land-based or submarine-based.
- The perception of the other side's actions as aggressive. The United States considered the occupation of Afghanistan to be an offensive act, while the Soviet Union perceived it as a defensive move. Likewise, one government considers its involvement in South America necessary to stop the spread of Communism, while the other views it as aggressive by the Soviets.
- Momentum of the military machine. The structure of the military is such that it is almost impossible to slow it down, according to Weisskopf. The film also emphasized this, showing that the main goal of many of the physicists at Los Alamos had been to develop the atomic bomb, before the Germans did. When the Germans surrendered, however, research did not slow down.
- "The last four decades have shown us one thing," he said. "Negotiations...have very little chance of success."

The only solution to the arms race, he continued, will be through a mutual understanding of how all policies will be viewed by the other side. "It is not really the reality that counts, but the perception," Weisskopf added.

The most dangerous thing the United States could do would be to announce that we were so far ahead of the Soviets militarily that we could never catch up, he explained. Weisskopf added that the pursuit of human rights would be best served if the United States cooperated with the Soviet Union.

The next two speakers echoed Weisskopf's sentiments. Morrison discussed the evolution of scientific thought from the time when Danish physicist Niels Bohr first described nuclear fission in 1938. He said that the world is made up of two institutions, nations and science, and that the two are entwined in conflict.

The best way to avoid nuclear holocaust, according to Morrison, is to change the political climate from one of mutual fear to one of mutual trust. "The real issue is whether a defense system has always been and remains based on a mutual system," he said. "I believe the solution has not been in the measures of defense, but in the measures of trust."