Freeze would have prevented INF

(Continued from page 4)

Union mounted a propaganda war and, along with the European freeze movement, attempted to prevent deployment of the Pershing IIIs and GLCMs while SS-20 deployment continued. Their efforts were nearly successful in a few countries, but NATO resolved to endure the threat and deployment went ahead.

After it became clear that NATO was committed to deployment of the full complement of LRINF missiles decided upon in 1978, the Soviets accepted the global double zero option offered by President Reagan some time ago.

The effect of this treaty would be to bring the nuclear balance in Europe to the level of the early 1970s, when neither side had LRINF missiles. In addition, the British and French strategic nuclear forces are unaffected by this treaty, and these weapons bolster the Western European nuclear deterrent.

The biggest winners from this treaty will not be Western Europeans, but the Japanese and South Koreans, since the 100 or so SS-20s in Soviet Asia will also be removed.

If the verification details and other technicalities can be successfully and satisfactorily negotiated, the treaty would make the world a much safer place. Had Western European governments bowed to the freeze movement and Soviet attempts to stop deployment of the GLCMs and Pershing IIIs, the possibility of zero LRINF missiles on both sides would not have come about. Instead there would be about 400 SS-20s aimed at Western Europe and Asia and zero US LRINF missiles.

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