

J92(A83)

J92(A83)

Proposal Abstract J92(A83)

1. Arms Control Problem:

- Nuclear weapons - ballistic missiles
 - research and development
 - missile tests
 - mobile ballistic missiles

2. Verification Type:

Remote sensors

3. Source:

Kissinger, Henry. "A New Approach to Arms Control". Time
(21 March 1983.)

4. Summary:

One of the central problems in arms control negotiations is the fact that they have been carried out in isolation from strategic considerations. Specifically, the demise of SALT negotiations may be traced to a previous reliance on the restrictions of delivery vehicles. Technological change and the development of multiple warheads has rendered this counting method obsolete, since one force may now overwhelm the other even where there is a relative equivalence in delivery vehicles. These developments have also posed a significant challenge to verification as the comparison of nuclear forces becomes more complicated or obscure. Consequently, a new scheme must be designed which takes into account such developments and seeks to establish a new 'strategic stability'.

It is posited that any future success in arms control depends on the ability to promote strategic stability by preventing a pre-emptive first strike. This can only be achieved by introducing a new approach which would eliminate multiple warheads and simultaneously render missiles less vulnerable to a first strike. Such a scheme might be implemented by developing a mobile missile with a single warhead. It is stated that "this scheme should pose no insurmountable verification problems". While these missiles would be harder to detect, their numbers would be sufficiently high that any violation large enough to significantly alter the strategic balance would be easily detected. Verification with regard to other missiles with multiple warheads would also become easier, since any new testing or development in this area would be proscribed.