

governments feared that the Soviet Union intended to threaten European NATO members and split the defence of Europe from the defence of North America. In December, 1979, NATO Defence and Foreign Ministers accordingly took two parallel decisions. They agreed to deploy 108 Pershing II ballistic missile launchers and 464 Ground-Launched Cruise Missiles to replace an equivalent number of short-range systems. Secondly they proposed negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States to limit or eliminate land-based intermediate-range missile systems on both sides. Unless there are concrete results in the negotiations, the first missiles will be deployed in Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy at the end of 1983.

Arms Control and Disarmament

There are several sets of arms control and disarmament negotiations now underway: the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START), Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force Talks (INF), Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction Talks (MBFR) and within the United Nations and the Committee on Disarmament.

In the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks the United States and the Soviet Union have each made modifications to their initial negotiating positions to take into account objections raised by the other. The Soviet position is based on the model of SALT II, with further reductions of about 25% proposed in the number of delivery vehicles - missiles and aircraft. Under the Soviet proposal, the number of warheads could, however, increase. After initially proposing a ban on Air-Launched Cruise Missiles, the Soviet Union would now permit 120 bombers equipped with ALCMs. It has also withdrawn proposed limits on submarines which would have had the effect of allowing Soviet but not US fleet modernization. The US set out to reduce the threat posed by Soviet heavy Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles with multiple warheads which it diagnosed as the most destabilizing factor in the nuclear relationship. It initially proposed deep cuts in the numbers of warheads on missiles, the numbers of missiles themselves and their total throw-weight (an indirect measure of their destructive power). The Soviet Union objected that the US proposals would have the effect of imposing a much greater change in the Soviet than in the US force, and would exclude consideration of bombers in the first phase. The US has now indicated that it will consider a higher number of missiles, while retaining the same ceiling on warheads, will accept other means of limiting the throw-weight, and will negotiate about bombers and cruise missiles as well as ballistic missiles.

Although START positions are beginning to converge, major areas of disagreement remain. Success in any case may depend on the outcome of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force Talks. The United States initially proposed eliminating all