

Pasti claims U.S. is 'Warmonger'

that he felt no limitations could ever be reached in conventional weapons and went so far as to say "We need them."

The Cruise missile said Pasti renders any sort of mutually-agreed arms limitation impossible.

Unlike the missiles that have been deployed in the past the cruise missile is small (about the size of a conventional submarine torpedo) and does not require a specially-built launching site.

"When deployed it is impossible to detect by satellite and its numbers are impossible to control," said Pasti.

The Cruise missile is capable of flying undetected underneath the Soviets' radar net and reaching its target with pinpoint accuracy.

"It's a terrible weapon," said Pasti.

Deploying these missiles in Western Europe will force the Soviets to respond in kind, said Pasti, in addition to building an adequate defence system. "To build a radar net capable of detecting the Cruise will cost in the area of 400 billion dollars."

Pasti added if the U.S. was sincere about maintaining nuclear parity they would have ratified SALT II.

The Pershing missile is another matter said Pasti. These missiles are to be deployed in Western Germany and aimed at the Soviet command centre in Moscow.

The Pershing is capable of levelling Moscow within four minutes of its launching, thus depriving the Soviets of sufficient time in order to react or retaliate after the launching has been detected.

Coupled with the US development of the Space Shuttle, which is capable of blinding Soviet satellites, the Pershing missile gives the US first-strike capability in a nuclear war.

In order to deliver a nuclear attack from the US or the USSR, or vice versa, requires approximately thirty minutes flight time. At this point, when both sides already have nuclear weapons aimed at one another, the best way the Americans can gain an advantage says Pasti is to "neutralize this thirty minutes."



photo by Zane Harker

Ex-Nato chief Nino Pasti blasts the US

Pasti said Europe is providing the Americans with a first line of defense and he "is surprised the heads of state in Europe go along with it"

"Your country also plays a similar role since any missiles flying over the poles will be intercepted over Canada," said Pasti.

Pasti said Europe must disarm to compel the Soviets to do the same. Countries like Britain and France should be the first since they are so far behind the US and the Soviet Union it makes no sense to for them to continue their involvement in the arms race.

"They can never compete with the super-powers so I say it is better for them to go the other way," said Pasti.

Canada could do likewise and refuse to allow the testing and deployment of any nuclear weapons in Canada.

"We must convince both sides that we will not follow in this preparation for nuclear war."

"The Atlantic Alliance is not one where the majority imposes its will on the minority, Belgium and Holland have not given permission to deploy the cruise missile and France will not allow foreign weapons or forces on their territory," said Pasti.

Italy has accepted the deployment of the Cruise missile within Italy and Pasti is upset over this.

"But you must understand the government of my country is dominated by the United States," said Pasti.

The cruise missile will be deployed in Sicily first despite the fact over one million people out of Sicily's total four million people signed a petition to refuse the missile.

"And it makes no sense to deploy a missile in the middle of the Mediterranean when it is supposed to be used against the Soviet Union," said Pasti.

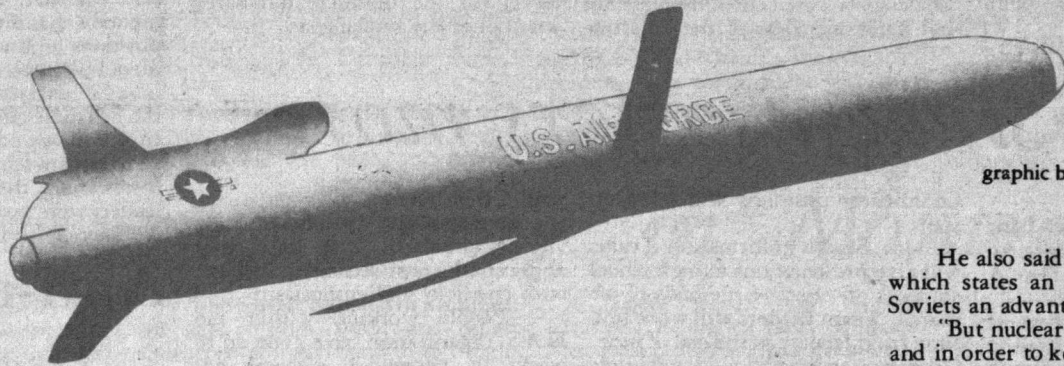
Pasti explained the talks in Geneva between the Americans and the Soviets taking place at this moment are not going well.

In addition to the deployment of the Cruise missile and Pershing missiles in Western

Pasti said this way the US will enjoy even greater superiority than they have now.

Pasti added if the US was sincere about maintaining nuclear parity they would have ratified SALT II.

"Unfortunately the American Senate would not accept anything short of superiority," said Pasti.



graphic by Fiona MacGregor

Europe the Americans are making impossible demands on the Soviets.

The majority of the Americans' nuclear weapons, explained Pasti, are located on submarines at sea. The Soviets have the majority of the missiles deployed on land.

"The Americans are proposing to first balance the weapons on land and then balance the weapons on the sea," said Pasti.

However Pasti explained that deploying the missile in Sicily would allow the US to dominate the Mediterranean.

"Libya rests on the Mediterranean and the missile could be fired at the middle East which is kind of a hot spot," said Pasti.

He also said it is "American propaganda" which states an arms freeze would give the Soviets an advantage in the arms race.

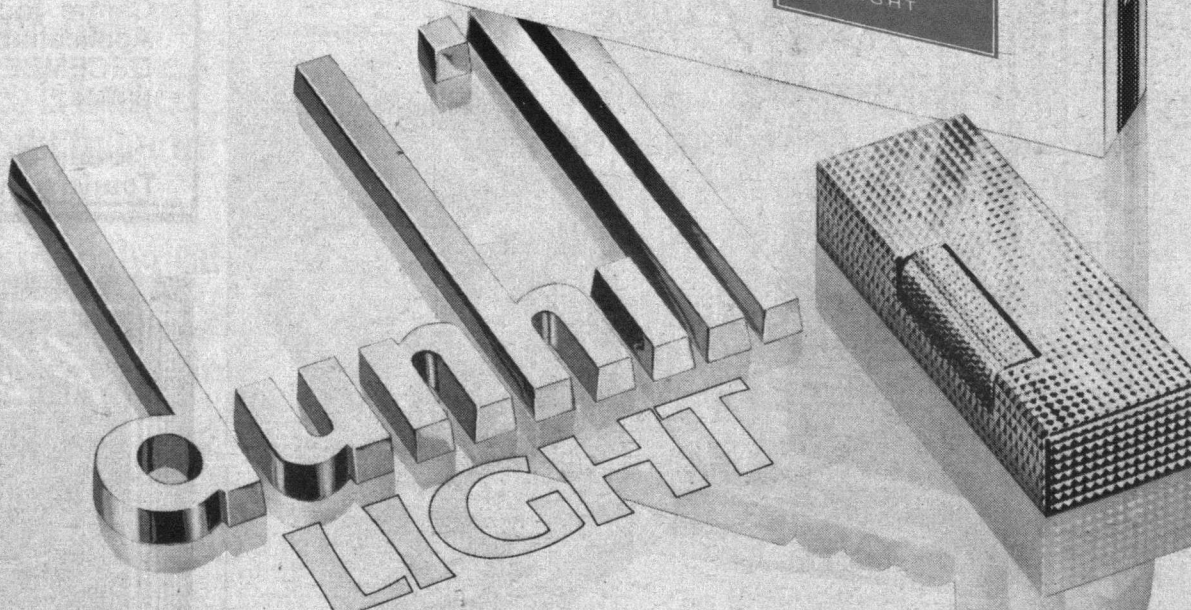
"But nuclear weapons cost a lot of money and in order to keep making a profit they (the US) must invent a threatening enemy," he said.

Pasti said the Soviets do not represent a large enough threat to justify the further building, testing, or deployment of nuclear weapons. He said people must join together to put pressure on their governments to stop any further escalations of the nuclear arms race.

"We must convince both sides that we will not follow in this preparation for nuclear war."

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