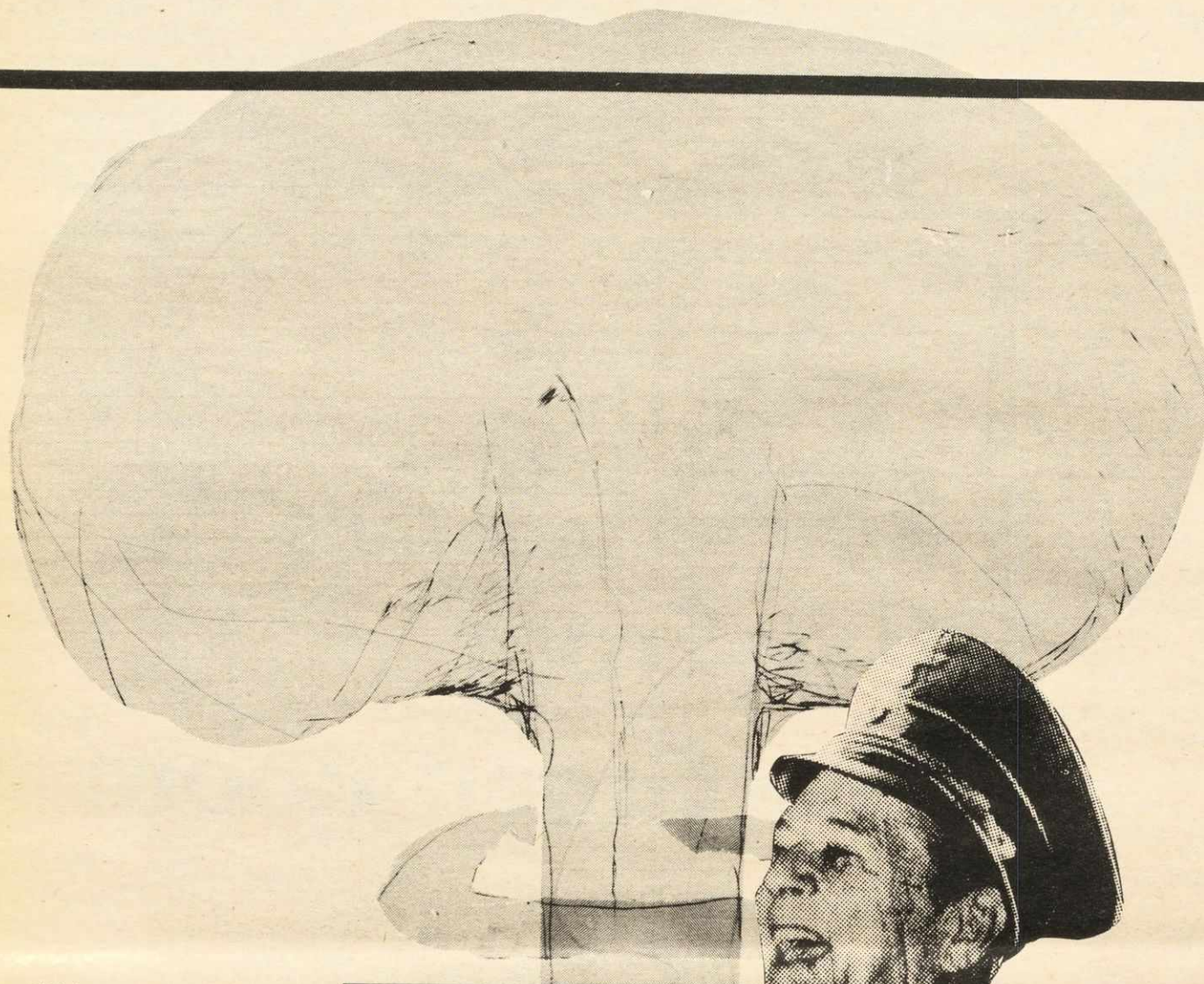


Seeing through the window of vulnerability



by Martin Tomlinson
for the Disarmer

Thinking of fighting and winning a prolonged nuclear war? Richard Pipes, a Reagan administration advisor and member of the National Security Council (NSC) thinks that "the Soviet leadership must choose between peacefully changing their communist system in the direction followed by the west or going to war." - Come on Yuri, how about it? We've tootled our Pipes now all you have to do is dance to the tune. Throw it all away, be a good capitalist, and we'll all live happily ever after. -No?

Well in that case, Caspar, the friendly SecDef (Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger) states in his 1982 annual report to Congress that we might "have to impose termination of a major war on terms favourable to the U.S. and it's allies, even if nuclear weapons have been used."

Ghostly, or ghastly? Maybe not. Dr. C.S. Gray, another administration advisor and military analyst for the Hudson Institute thinks "an intelligent U.S. offensive strategy wedded to homeland defense, would reduce U.S. casualties to approximately 20 million." That's the level he believes would allow for U.S. post-war recovery and would see "the destruction of Soviet political authority and the emergence of a postwar order compatible with Western values."

Don't look so ashen, the issues become greyer still.

F.C. Ikle, Under-Secretary of



Defense for policy, thinks the administration's outlook on the favourable outcome of a nuclear war can be happily summed up as the U.S. having a "favourable ratio of forces". Even if the number of dead and dying were to be so great as to nullify any possible concept of winning. - And you thought this might have been a Dr. Ikle and Mr. Hyde story. Look now! Just think of it as a big football game, as long as the home team wins who cares what else happens. Besides it will give the cheerleaders a chance to look good, although that's probably because some of them took acting lessons.

So, why worry about the Ruskies? I mean what's all this fuss about spending one and one half pies of our budget on weapons when we only have one pie's worth to divy up, and when the final solution seems to be a foregone conclusion.

What's that? The "Window of Vulnerability" you say. It sounds very scary indeed.

Are you trying to tell me that what this means is: they have 1,549 launchers (missiles), 8,029 warheads (some having a humungous 20 megatonne yield) for a total blast area of $1,670,000 \times 10^2$ km. of blast area and a total fallout area of $4,425,000 \times 10^2$

km., while we only have 1,054 launchers, 9,378 warheads (of which our biggest is only a puny 9 megatonnes; ie. 9,000,000 tonnes of conventional explosive - hardly megabig by anyone's standards and especially the Ruskies'), $965,000 \times 10^2$ km. of total blast area and a total fallout area of $2,425,000 \times 10^2$ km.

SEE! They've got more missiles than we do, they've got 1,549 and we've only got 1,054. Why that's, uh, let me see here uh...a whole bunch more than we have. Now, if we could get even more missiles than we already have, then we can blow up the earth even more times than we already can,

and even more times than they ever could, which would make them even more scared than they already are. That means that when we go to the bargaining table at the disarmament talks we can force huge and unrealistic concessions out of those Russians from our position of strength. Why, it's so simple its bound to work.

But right now we're in terrible danger. You see, and I'm sure you do, if "they" were to launch an all out attack with their land based missiles (I.C.B.M.'s) on our I.C.B.M.'s, and the attack was precisely and flawlessly planned and executed and there were no mechanical errors whatsoever, and the missiles hit all their targets and the Russians were incredibly lucky, and.... then all our land based missiles would be destroyed. All we would have left is, oh, a couple of hundred strategic bombers and sixty or so nuclear powered submarines armed with I.C.B.M.'s (of which any of the new ones can destroy 160 Soviet cities. - ie. all of them, according to the committee which is responsible for justifying defense spending to the public our submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBM's) aren't accurate enough to destroy Soviet silo based missiles. Our President would then be placed in the horrible position of choosing between escalating the war to include innocent civilians on both sides (especially the American side) or surrendering to the Soviets. This is the situation that the United States could be faced with, this is the "window of vulnerability" that is opening upon the American Strategic forces.

We must close the "window of vulnerability". We must make America a strong fortress against socialism.

Now, while perhaps the Armed Forces and the P.R. men forgot that the new missiles (Trident I) in place in both the old and the new submarines, with the help of Navigational Satellite Tracking and Relay (NAVSTAR) stations, could destroy any type of target in the Soviet Union including the silo based missiles. Face it, land based missiles are obsolete, our submarines are superior to theirs in virtually all respects. Besides, with the new budget we'll have Ronald's Ray-guns and some other nifty outerspace hardware. Maybe we should fight and win that nuclear war them fella's in Warshington were talking about. How about it?