

# Ex-Nato Vice Commander Nino Pasti

by Richard Watts

Last Thursday the U of A heard a distinguished visitor speak about the deployment of the Cruise and Pershing missiles in Western Europe.

That visitor was Nino Pasti who is currently a member of the Italian Senate and an

"War was impossible since both sides would be destroyed and this started a peaceful co-existence," said Pasti.

Pasti added the peace "was not always easy", but it was peace nevertheless.

Pasti resigned in 1974 when NATO's nuclear weapons policy shifted from mutually-

"It sounds better to the public to say these weapons are aimed at Soviet armed forces and people are beginning to think it is possible to win a nuclear war."

Pasti said however, Strategic nuclear war does not guarantee fewer civilian casualties. Since troops are usually stationed near large civilian populations deaths from nuclear weapons cannot be restricted to military personnel. The only difference, states Pasti, is the change in attitude that has the Pentagon believing they can actually win a nuclear war.

Pasti explained a freeze will not give the Soviets an advantage in arms as NATO already has superiority in both conventional and nuclear weapons.

Claiming he was quoting only official American documents, Pasti said the US already has nuclear superiority over the Soviets.

Quoting the American Institute of Strategic Studies Pasti said that even the threat from conventional forces of the Warsaw Pact is blown out of proportion.

"NATO has 7,000 more troops than the Warsaw Pact nations. In order to win a conventional war it is estimated the Soviets would have to have a three to one superiority," said Pasti.

This occurred in 1974 and Nino Pasti resigned and began campaigning for a nuclear weapons freeze.

The counter-force strategic strategy now adopted by NATO, said Pasti, requires a constant attention to development and buildup of nuclear arsenals.

According to Pasti the Soviets have never initiated any new developments in the arms race but merely responded to new developments of the US.

"NATO has 7,000 more troops than the Warsaw Pact nations. In order to win a conventional war it is estimated the Soviets would have to have a three to one superiority," said Pasti.

"The troops in Eastern Europe are there for defensive purposes only," he said.

Pasti said a freeze in the production, testing and deployment of nuclear weapons is the first step in eliminating nuclear arms from the arsenals of the world. He did admit however



photo by Zane Harker

Pasti deplores his country's decision to deploy the Cruise missile and urges Canada not to follow suit

assured-destruction to a strategic policy. Where weapons had been previously aimed to destroy Soviet cities they were now aimed at destroying Soviet forces.

Pasti explained that while he worked for NATO the nuclear policy weapons policy was one of "counter-city-mutually-assured-destruction.

"We now have a psychological problem," said Pasti.

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