

Pressure Reagan to limit arms

Dear Editor,

Don Murray's letter concerning nuclear disarmament (Mar. 4) assumes, with no evidence that the US is always right, almost by definition. But, almost every act of escalation (e.g. the A bomb, H bomb, and ICBM's) has been introduced by the USA and only later matched by the USSR. This has been admitted in several articles and lectures by George Kennan, Chief State Department policy planner under Truman and architect of the "First Cold War" (e.g. *New York Review*, July 16th 1981).

Secondly, historians David Korowitz and Fred Cook have outlined examples of deliberate disinformation used by the Pentagon to increase arms spending; e.g. in 1960 the USSR's 4:1 missile advantage was later revealed as a 3:1 US advantage only after funding was secured for a further 210 ICBM's.

NATO has never allowed this gap to close and the independent Stockholm International Peace Research Institute lists NATO as the leading military spender, over the Warsaw pact by 3:2.

Present estimates for the number of independent (i.e. long-

range) warheads range from 6000 to 7000 for the Warsaw Pact and 9000 to 12 000 for NATO. This includes the Pentagon's own figures and explains why Reagan is not interested in ratifying SALT II.

Tom Gervasi, a former US counterintelligence officer, lists the independent tactical warheads as 7000 to 2500 in favour of NATO. ("Arsenal of Democracy II")

Incidentally, the SS-20's being deployed are replacements for the old SS-4's and SS-5's and NATO has never claimed otherwise.

At present, neither side can reach each other's long-range missile silos with tactical weapons. This will not be the case in NATO deploys the Cruise and Pershing II missiles: it would be equivalent to 572 new Soviet

missiles, suddenly having the range to hit the USA!

Finally, the only evidence submitted to a recent US Congressional committee on Soviet chemical warfare was some leaf samples "from Kampuchea" containing a mycotoxin. These were supplied by "Soldier of Fortune" Magazine and the biochemist who examined them, Michael Meselson, said that they were tampered with deliberately. This story is detailed by Harold Jackson (*Manchester Guardian Weekly* Dec. 6, 1981) It contrasts strongly with the nerve-gas factory presently being built at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and the tons of defoliant and agent-orange poured on Vietnam: a country where many children now have severe congenital deformities as a direct result.

Reagan has created a dangerous climate of confronta-

tion and he should be pressured to negotiate for meaningful reductions rather than his own stated wish to bargain from a position of strength. The latter path will further increase the risk of ac-

cidental war by the many ways outlined in Mr. J. Sharon's letter of a few weeks ago.

Sincerely,
S.P. Goff
Grad Studies

Protest Cold Lake cruises

The negotiations between the U.S. and Canadian governments, re: the testing of US cruise missiles at Cold Lake, Alberta are in the final stages of agreement...

These negotiations carry strong implications in that

1) they directly refute the possible existence of Canada as a nuclear weapons fire zone.

2) they destroy Canada's reputation as a peace-loving country.

3) they show that the Canadian government (ie. Canadians) condone the proliferation of nuclear arms and the escalation of the arms race.

Today, cruise missiles; tomorrow, the warheads. Let's get U.S. nuclear missiles off our soil. Write or send a telegram to our Canadian External Affairs Minister, Mark McGuigan.

Barb McKinley
Chery Davies
U of A Group for
Nuclear Disarmament

Letters

Letters to the Editor should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, although we will reluctantly accept them if they are very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

more letters on
page 6 and 7

Sportsman's international intrigue

Re: The Russian arrangement at Lake Placid (*Gateway*, March 16/81).

Yes, guys, you've worked it out real well. You make the motives for the Russian fix appear so plain. Here are the American failures in Iran and Afghanistan. Their trigger fingers itch. Lets give them a pacifier: the Lake Placid winter Olympics. That will sooth present diplomatic relations without detracting from eventual Russian supremacy. It will also make us look nobler in the long run.

Maybe it was a mistake.

You see the crux of your argument; the focus of your explanation for the Russians' action was also a big maybe.

Maybe the Americans actually did win. What would the Russians do? Reassure themselves of their own racial supremacy by fitting it into their own grand plan.

Finagle's (a colleague of Murphy) Law states: "no matter how an experiment turns out, somebody is bound to interpret it according to their own pet theory".

Appropriate, isn't it?

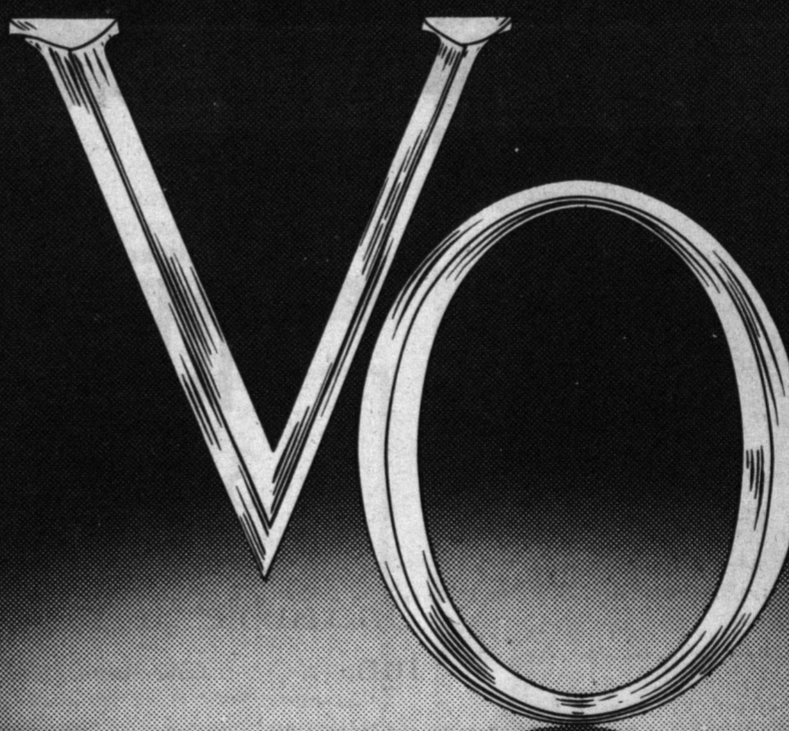
Maybe the Americans are deceiving themselves.

Maybe the Russians are, too.

Life isn't as simple as Sprots makes it out.

Ironically,
Gunnar Blodgett

A reputation built by word of mouth



Seagram's V.O.

Canada's most respected 8 year old whisky.