

## VI. The American Proposal at Geneva

The outlines of the American proposal were reported in the American press on October 31st 1985, and subsequently both confirmed and elaborated by various American spokesmen<sup>30</sup> as follows:

- a ballistic missile warhead ceiling (including land and submarine based launchers) of 4,500
- a ballistic missile launcher ceiling (land and sea based) of 1,250, but with indications that the ceiling could be raised to 1,450
- a warhead sub-ceiling of 3,000 on ICBMs
- a throw-weight limit on strategic ballistic missiles, the effect of which is that neither side can exceed more than 50% of existing Soviet throw-weight
- a limit of 350 on heavy bombers which, in the Soviet case, apparently includes the Backfire
- a separate limit of 1500 on air-launched cruise missiles (ALCMs), with no limit on other nuclear armaments (gravity bombs and short-range attack missiles) carried by bombers
- a limit of 120 on the number of bombers allowed to carry ALCMs
- an equal limit of 140 on the number of Soviet and American launchers in Europe, which would include the ground-launched cruise missiles (GLCMs) and Pershing IIs on the American side, and the Soviet SS-20s and SS-4s directed towards Western Europe

<sup>30</sup> See particularly Paul Nitze, Speech to the Overseas Writer's Club, November 8, 1985