

Foreword

I. INTRODUCTION

This working paper brings together several related but somewhat distinct projects undertaken by the research staff of the Institute. applied to the strategic arms race, it is the one most often raised. For example, First, a number of individuals suggested that the Institute might assist interested individuals by preparing a guide to sources on nuclear weapons data. Effectively, Section II of this paper responds to that suggestion. While the commentary is likely to be most useful to non-specialists in the area, it might also provide a useful checklist to more experienced observers who are already familiar with the source materials. Second, the Institute undertook its own assessments of the Soviet and American proposals at Geneva, which were designed primarily as background analyses and detailed descriptions of the respective proposals. Major elements of these analyses are incorporated into the text. Third, both proposals and, indeed, the strategic debate for several years now, reflect the issue of counter-force capabilities. This paper seeks to identify the counter-force problem and to relate it to the present arms control negotiations. In so doing we have attempted, as simply as possible, to set out the calculations used in counter-force analyses with a view to allowing the non-specialized reader to understand the basis of the technical debate without necessarily becoming familiar with all the equations involved. Indeed, the commentary accompanying the tables is intended to be self-explanatory, so that the steps of the argument can be followed through the text alone.

The paper has been prepared by David Cox in co-operation with Jane Boulden, research assistant at the Institute. Acknowledgement is made to Lawrence Hagen, former Director of Research at the Canadian Centre for Arms Control and Disarmament, for his advice and comment.

We welcome and invite comments on the paper, whether about the value of the analysis for particular audiences, or the substance. Communications should be addressed to David Cox, Director of Research.