

nuclear confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union. Both the Soviet Union and the United States are developing and deploying weapons that are to be capable of threatening the other side's land-based weapons. These, along with improvements in command and control facilities, as well as anti-submarine warfare activities (ultimately to be joined by strategic defence forces) represent a determined effort to acquire nuclear first-strike and war-fighting weapons systems. Such weapons are premised on the belief that in certain circumstances it would be advantageous to initiate the use of nuclear weapons, and that in some circumstances we, the people whose security is ostensibly being provided for by these weapons, would be better off if these weapons were detonated than if they were not. Again, we rely on the Reagan administration to make it explicit. Secretary Weinberger has said that he has assigned the "highest priority...to increasing the ability of our strategic (nuclear) force management systems not only to survive but to remain capable of performing their basic functions throughout a sustained sequence of Soviet attacks." Mr. Weinberger seeks these capabilities in order to "deny enemy war aims" and for "restoring peace on favourable terms" -- those phrases being about as masterful a euphemism for fighting and winning a nuclear war as one could produce.

The meaning of deterrence has undergone a major change in order to accomodate nuclear war-fighting doctrines. In addition to being the promise of assured, debilitating response, deterrence is taken by the administration now to mean that an