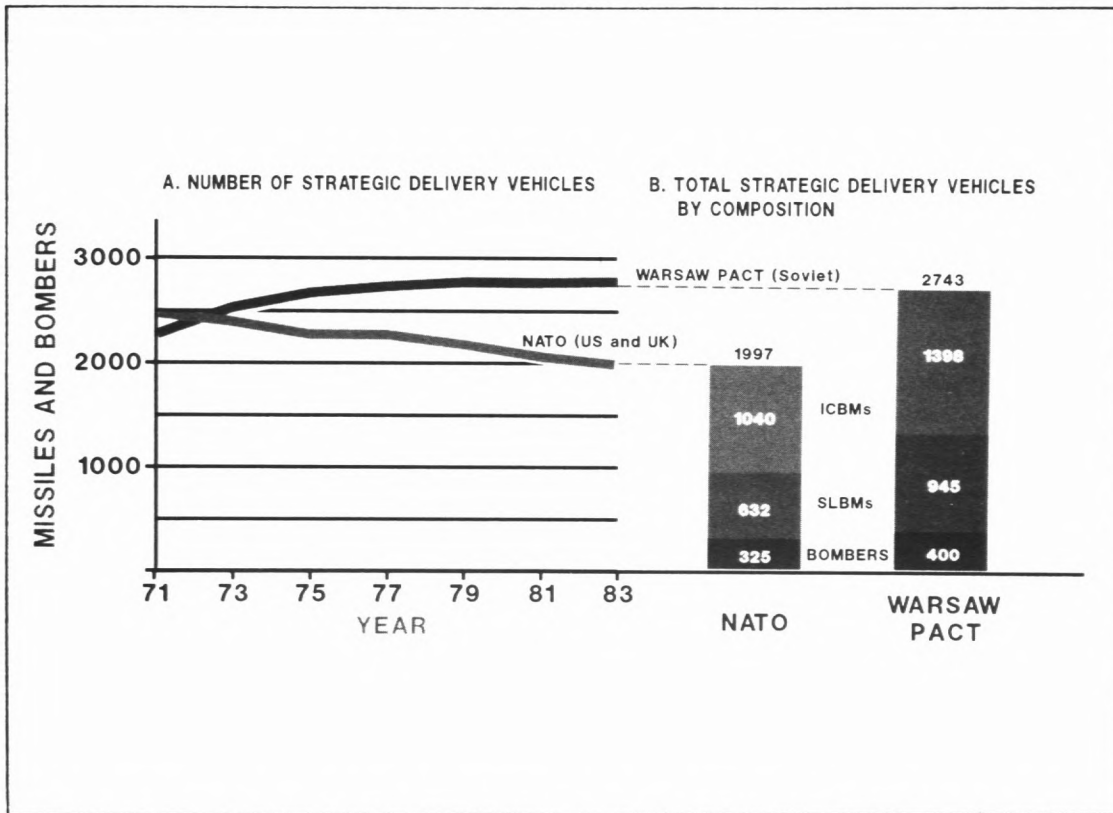


Figure 4: TOTAL STRATEGIC MISSILES AND BOMBERS



Source: NATO and the Warsaw Pact: Force Comparisons, NATO Information Service, Brussels, 1984.

At the same time, there has never been any serious question of our adopting a neutral position between East and West. We are determined to uphold and defend our ideals of freedom and democracy. The Soviet Union is a formidable, conventionally-armed and nuclear-armed adversary. The need to defend ourselves is real. Hence our membership in NATO and our cooperation with the United States in the defence of North America.

Arms Control and Disarmament

The era of détente produced not only the commencement of MBFR negotiations on conventional forces reductions, but also the landmark decision of the United States and the Soviet Union to limit deployment of anti-ballistic missile defensive systems (the ABM treaty) and to pursue mutually agreed ceilings on offensive systems (the SALT I and SALT II agreements). In the decade that followed, advances in weapons technology and concern about verification provisions and compliance with existing agreements complicated the prospects for further progress. Today, there is renewed interest in defensive systems, including space-based systems, while the difficult search for reductions of offensive systems continues.

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The prospect of either side coldly starting a nuclear war remains extremely small. There is general recognition that there can be no victor in a nuclear war. Both sides have the capacity to retaliate if attacked, and the resulting devastation would be enormous, not only for the victim of aggression but for