

However, NATO members consider the proposals are not acceptable as they stand.

The Soviet SS-20s are not comparable to the British and French weapons systems. Only a few of the French missiles are land based and, unlike the SS-20s, these do not have multiple warheads. The rest of the French and all of the British missiles are carried on submarines, and therefore compare with the Soviet strategic nuclear submarines which can be targetted on Western Europe, not with the land-based SS-20s. The Soviet Union did not introduce the SS-20s to balance the British and French systems, and does not need to retain any for that purpose.

Mr. Andropov's proposals pose another problem. In his speech, he did not indicate whether the Soviet Union would reduce the number of its rockets by destroying them or simply by removing them from the European portion of the USSR. Because of its great range, the SS-20 could continue to threaten NATO territory even if it were based beyond the Ural Mountains in the USSR. Moreover, the SS-20 could be reintroduced into the European sector of the USSR relatively quickly because it is transportable.

There have been hints that the Soviet Union might be prepared to destroy some of the SS-20s, but such questions have to be carefully examined in the arms control negotiations in Geneva. Canada and its allies have agreed that every