

Because of its slow flight time, the cruise missile would take two to three hours to reach its target. Even a nuclear armed cruise missile could therefore not be used as a first strike weapon, because it could not take an enemy by surprise. On the other hand, cruise missiles can be dispersed if the need arises, and are less vulnerable to destruction in an enemy first strike than missiles which must be launched from fixed sites.

#### Arms Control and Verification

Some groups with an interest in disarmament fear that, once either the United States cruise missiles or the equivalent weapons now being tested in the Soviet Union are deployed, it will be impossible to abolish or limit them in a subsequent arms control agreement. It is argued that they can be easily hidden, and no one could be confident that all of them had been accounted for. Similar fears have been expressed about the prospects for applying arms control measures to the Soviet SS-20 missile, which is transportable. Verification of an agreement concerning all of these missiles will unquestionably present new challenges, but should not prove impossible.

Air launched cruise missiles constitute the least problem, because controls could be placed on the aircraft from which they must be launched. Controls of this