

Foreword

This working paper brings together several related but somewhat distinct projects undertaken by the research staff of the Institute.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS, COUNTER-FORCE, AND ARMS REDUCTION PROPOSALS: A GUIDE TO INFORMATION SOURCES AND FORCE CALCULATIONS

First, the Institute has sought to assist interested individuals by preparing a guide to sources of 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.

I. Introduction

II. The Public Sources Generally Relied Upon

Second, the Institute has looked at the proposals of the Soviet and American proposals at Geneva, which were designed primarily as background

III. Basic Factors in the Strategic Force Balance

for the development of the proposals. Major elements of these analyses are incorporated into the text.

IV. Calculating Counter-Force Capabilities

Third, both proposals and, indeed, the strategic debate for several years now, reflect a concern with counter-force capabilities. This paper seeks to identify the counter-force problem and to relate it to the present arms control negotiations.

V. The Soviet Proposal at Geneva

VI. The American Proposal in Geneva

In doing so we have attempted, as simply as possible, to set out the calculations used in counter-force analyses with a

view to enabling a 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. Acknowledgment is made to Lawrence Hagan, 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.