

# State Department official-treaty limits war chances



Photo by Tom Gessner

Fina ... SALT I negotiator

By Debbie Hemminger

A State Department official said Wednesday SALT II is designed to reduce accidental nuclear attack.

Thomas Fina, a career State Department officer, said the ceiling developed in SALT II during the last seven years' negotiations is a significant achievement. It limits the number of launchers and aircraft for nuclear attack and looks toward further lowering the allowable number.

The speech, sponsored by the Nebraska Union Talks and Topics Committee, also included a panel of political science faculty including William Avery, Philip Dyer, Louis Picard, Sue Hulett, David Rapkin and graduate student Hugh Arnold.

In response to Picard's question about the weaknesses of the treaty, Fina said nothing is more important than the lower ceilings. He said the Soviet's bombers are still in question.

The 100-member audience also questioned Fina concerning the United States' trust of the Russians. Fina said the Joints Chiefs of Staff are convinced that SALT I was respected by Russia and United States, however, that does not mean the Soviet Union will not cheat on SALT II.

Fina said the treaty deserves support before the Soviets change their minds. Furthermore, he explained, if one-third plus one of the Senate does not pass the

third plus one of the Senate does not pass the treaty the United States will lose credibility because its allies and adversaries will have difficulty believing the president's words. He said, three presidents have worked for the treaty, and if it is not ratified by the Senate, seven years of negotiations will be lost.

"We can't expect too much from it (the treaty)," Fina

said, "It will not end competition, make the Soviet's go away, nor reduce taxes."

He added it will not establish superiority in military arms.

Fina said it does allow some money to be shifted from nuclear weapons to conventional weaponry, diminishing chances of nuclear war.

Throughout the discussion, Fina emphasized that the treaty is a step toward arms limitation. However, several members of the audience indicated they thought limitation was a step in the wrong direction.

Dyer said he thought SALT II is being over sold and not worth an increase in defense spending.

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