

Disarmament authority rallies arms race freeze

By Beth Headrick

The director of the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies asked Nebraskans to organize now to freeze the nuclear arms race and to stop the United States and the Soviet Union from intervening in the conventional wars of developing countries.

Randall Forsberg Saturday told the Nebraskans for Peace at Sacred Heart Church in Lincoln there is a broad movement among peace activists, civic leaders, the scientific community, women's organizations and the religious faction to bring the dangers of nuclear war to the attention of the public.

The peace movement always has been on the fringe of society, she said, but with the number and the variety of groups involved, it can reach the heart of America in the same way the anti-war movement did in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

She said a bilateral freeze on producing

nuclear weapons is possible because the United States and the Soviet Union have practically achieved military parity. A freeze wouldn't mean disarmament, but stopping further nuclear arms escalation. Such a freeze would be advantageous for the Soviets now because at the present growth rate, by 1990, they will be more vulnerable to nuclear attack than the United States, she said.

The United States still is ahead in the race because of the advanced submarine detection systems set up both on towers and on the ocean floor. The MX missile system also will make the Soviet's ICBMs vulnerable, she said.

Easier to verify

A freeze is easier to verify than either the SALT I or SALT II treaties, she said. Instead of keeping track of how many nuclear weapons are being built, the satellites only have to monitor back that nothing is being built.

For 20 years the United States was ahead of the Soviet Union, she said, but the newspapers from the 1940s and 1950s gave the same rhetoric that the papers give today: The Soviets are more advanced technologically than the United States.

Now the Soviets have more missiles and larger ones than the United States, she said, but they do not have a superior weapons system overall. U.S. missiles are more accurate. The United States has advanced anti-submarine warfare and the USSR's land-based missile system will be threatened by the MX missile system, the cruise and the Trident missile systems.

However, that kind of comparative arms-race talk is absurd, she said. The two superpowers only use their nuclear arms as a power lever to fight conventional wars on foreign soil.

Superiority without challenge

"What Alexander Haig would miss (if there was a nuclear arms production freeze) is not deterring a war in Europe, not deterring an out-of-the-blue Russian attack on U.S. cities, but his attempts to intervene in developing countries to

maintain U.S. superiority without a challenge," she said.

No one expects a conventional war in Europe, she said, only in countries like Iran, Saudi Arabia, Africa and Latin America.

In the meantime, Forsberg said, building more nuclear weapons is dangerous and unnecessary.

Forsberg said if a bilateral halt were called, clandestine weapon-building would not be a problem. It's not only difficult to build, set up and test weapons is secret, she said, but the nuclear arms race has been used mostly during peace time to show military supremacy, and being clandestine doesn't achieve that end.

In a workshop Forsberg directed after her speech, pamphlets were handed out that said a nuclear arms freeze would save each government \$50 to \$75 billion.


"If the U.S. took the initiative and stopped, in a couple of years the USSR would see we were serious and a bilateral freeze would become reality," she said.

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Correction

The Daily Nebraskan incorrectly reported in Friday's newspaper that the Crib restaurant in the Nebraska Union would be moved to the basement of the union by next January.

Maynard Krantz, president of the union student-faculty board, said there are no plans to move the Crib to the basement.

short stuff

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 Their will be an Accounting Association meeting today at 3:15 p.m. in CBA 124.

 Latter-Day Saint Student Association will have class on Tuesday at 7 p.m. at 1630 Q St.

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 UPC-Culture Center will have a meeting on Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. Room number will be posted.

 Angel Flight will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Military and Naval Science Building on second floor.

 Play badminton tonight from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Mabel Lee Hall 301. Equipment is provided and everyone is welcome.

Students wishing to be considered for nomination by the university for a Federal Summer Internship should contact the Coordinator for Experiential Education, Room 1218 Oldfather Hall. Positions are open for graduate students with degrees in business administration, political science, economics or other human services programs, and for undergraduates or graduate students with backgrounds in chemistry, mathematics or life sciences. All applicants must be planning to return to school in the fall. The application deadline is March 2.

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