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MX said not worth its cost

By Pat Higgins

The MX missile system will cost enormous amounts of money and will not make the United States any more militarily secure, said David Rapkin, UNL world politics professor.

Rapkin said the decision to proceed with the MX missile and the B-1 bomber will result in a further acceleration of the arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union because the MX enhances U.S.

Rapkin said the rationale for former President Jimmy Carter's "MX shell game" was the ability of the missile to survive as a second-strike capability to close the window of vulnerability."

This is a "worst-case scenario," Rapkin said, in which the Soviet Union would launch a limited, preemptive first-strike against American intercontinental ballistic missiles. The strike

would result in an estimated 25 million to 30 million casualties.

In the scenario, the Soviets could make a political threat to the United States, such as a takeover of West Germany, he said. The U.S. president would have to decide whether to retaliate on Soviet cities, knowing that the Soviets could retaliate on U.S. cities, Rapkin said.

Rapkin says the problem with this "planners nightmare" is that it is based on a series of unrealistic assumptions.

One such assumption, Rapkin said, is that the number of casualties during a first-strike would be limited to 25 to 30 million. The second is that U.S. nuclear submarine forces, with their thousands of missiles, are left out of the picture, he said. The third is the assumption that the Soviet leadership, even if presumed to be evil, would be a course of action resulting in millions of Sov-

iet casualties, he said.

However, the MX would not close this hypothetical window of vulnerability because it is being installed in existing silos that are already targeted in a Soviet first-strike, Rapkin said.

A second feature of the MX, although less publicized, is that it is cut more accurate and it has 10 warheads instead of three, as is the current standard. This makes the MX a first-strike weapon, he said.

Rapkin said the Soviets have military power but lack economic power and world prestige. The arms race shows that the Soviet Union is a formidable foe, which can't be ignored, he said. However, Rapkin said, one cannot assume that the Soviet Union would undertake a first-strike, a move that Rapkin said is highly unlikely.

Rapkin said he believed Reagan administration advisers, drawn from the Institute of Policy Studies, are planning a shift in the U.S. strategic policy.

By cutting social spending, Rapkin said, the advisers' theory is that the Soviet Union would become bankrupt as it tries to match the U.S. pace.

Rapkin said the problem with this policy is that it would be a mistake to underestimate the ability of the Soviet regime to extract resources from its society.

Phones ready for emergency usage at UNL

UNL has installed emergency telephones at two locations on City Campus.

One phone is in the Area 1 parking lot at 19th and Vine streets. The other phone is between Architecture Hall and Sheldon Art Gallery.

The phones connect callers with a UNL operator.

UNL police Sgt. Dick Gammel said students can use the phones to report any suspicious activities on campus to police.

short stuff

The Christian Science Organization will meet today at 5 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. Room will be posted.

The Non-Traditional Student Association will have its weekly luncheon this Friday in the Nebraska Union. Room will be posted.

There will be a Health Center Board meeting Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in the Nebraska Union. Room will be posted. All are welcome.

Opportunities for advanced undergraduate students in the physical and life sciences, social sciences and humanities are available through the 1982 Environmental Intern Program.

Deadline for applications is Dec. 7. Information and application forms are available from the coordinator for experiential education, Oldfather 1218, 472-1452.

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