

**The Freeze: An American Concept**

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to several erroneous statements concerning the nuclear freeze and the U.S.-Soviet military balance, made by Robert Bart in his letter to the *Grapevine* (March 1-7). For example, Mr. Bart cites Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's claim that the Soviets have steadily increased their military power while the U.S. has shown restraint. In fact, both countries' military power continues to increase, regardless of relative levels of spending. Moreover, the CIA recently issued a report arguing that the rate of increase in Soviet military spending actual-

ly declined starting about 1976, suggesting—contrary to President Reagan's view—that the Soviets did in fact respond to the climate of detente by slowing military growth.

As evidence of U.S. military decline, Mr. Bart mentions the fact that the total megatonnage (explosive yield) of the U.S. nuclear arsenal was reduced during the period 1966-1981, as if this were an example of unilateral disarmament. In reality, megatonnage is a relatively insignificant measure of the destructive capacity of nuclear weapons. Accuracy of weapons is far more important, and the U.S. made great strides in this area during the 1970s, while the Soviets lagged

behind. The U.S. deliberately reduced the megatonnage of its weapons because it was no longer necessary to give them their maximum destructive capability. The U.S.S.R. with relatively less accurate weapons, has retained high-yield warheads in order to compensate.

Mr. Bart makes several errors in his discussion of verification of arms agreements. It is not necessary to have on-site inspection in order to know how many nuclear warheads are contained on each Soviet missile. The SALT II Treaty (still unratified by the U.S.) provided that a given type of missile would be assumed to contain the maximum number of warheads with which it

**Photographs Add to Problems**

To the Editors:

I think the *Grapevine* could have been more thoughtful about the pictures used in its recent issue concerning sexual violence. In short, I believe the photographs do more to add to the problem than they do to its solution. They do not, I feel, represent the good intentions of the article.

The photographs tell us what it must look like just prior to an offense. Is that where we should go

as readers looking for solutions? I think not. I think I would have much preferred to see not the nightmarish details of an incident, nor the devastating effects, but that which is on the other side—the things contributing to solutions and resolutions for those who offend, those who are offended, and those who live with both in this community.

Perhaps a picture of the writer's consulting rooms, depicting a space of warmth and sensitivity and implying that there

is a facility for the unangling of knots could have been used. The *Grapevine* may well have used a photograph from someone who has gone through such crisis and who lives through it successfully. I am sure that person's eye would have been more discerning in the photographic material chosen and the messages implicit, giving us more of a sense of hope and courage than of desperation and horror.

Thank you.

Sandy Miles  
Ithaca, NY

had been tested (this information is available through satellite surveillance and monitoring of tests). Neither side would risk deploying an

untested system, so we can be confident that the Soviets are not hiding extra warheads on their missiles. One drawback of SALT is, in fact, that it

encourages both sides to deploy the maximum number of allowable warheads on each missile, since they will be

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**EDITORS' NOTES**

*The Great Escape to Summer Is Here!*

In the weeks ahead you'll learn all about:

Summer theater, music festivals, winery tours, restaurants, movies, day trips, activities for the young and the young at heart, rainy-day options, summer reading, parks and nature walks, water sports, sky diving...

## LETTERS

counted in any case—thus the treaty effectively promotes a growth in the arsenals.

On the issue of on-site inspection, Mr. Bart incorrectly claims that the Soviets have always rejected it. This is far from the truth. In 1962 the Soviets were willing to allow a few on-site inspections in order to enforce a comprehensive nuclear test ban, but the U.S. demanded a larger number and would not compromise. The Soviets have signed a Threshold Test Ban Treaty with provisions for on-site inspection on a "challenge" basis (if a violation is suspected), but the U.S. has refused to ratify the treaty. Recently the Soviets have proposed on-site inspection as a means of implementing a

ban on chemical weapons. So far, no U.S. response.

Finally, concerning the nuclear freeze, Mr. Bart repeats a long-discredited notion that it was first proposed by Soviet leader Brezhnev in 1981, and consequently anyone who supports it must be a communist dupe. If Mr. Bart had taken the trouble to look at any issue of the Freeze Campaign's monthly *Freeze Newsletter*, he would have read on page two that the campaign "had its beginning in late 1979 when Randall Forsberg, Director of the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies drafted a paper—the Call to Halt the Nuclear Arms Race—and circulated it to a number of well-known arms control ex-

perts, directors of national organizations, and peace groups around the country. In less than a year, some 30 national organizations and hundreds of regional and local groups and individuals had endorsed the Freeze Proposal..."

Indeed, a precedent for Forsberg's idea had already been set, in 1964 when it was proposed that the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. negotiate a freeze on their nuclear arsenals. This freeze proposal was put forward by then-President Lyndon Johnson, when the U.S. had an overwhelming nuclear superiority, and the Soviets consequently rejected it. Now, contrary to Mr. Bart's claims, the two sides have reached a state of rough parity (at astound-

ing levels of overkill). It is time to stop, as most Americans recognize. To accuse the majority of Americans who have voted in favor of the freeze in several elections of acting under Soviet influence, as Mr. Bart does, is to foster a pernicious fallacy. Mr. Bart should get his facts straight before he presents them in public.

Matthew A.  
Evangelista  
Peace Studies  
Program  
Cornell University

*The Grapevine invites letters from our readers. Please keep your letters brief and to the point and include your name, address and daytime telephone number. We reserve the right to edit all letters for space and clarity.*

# LETTERS

## Theater Thanks

To the Editor:

Thanks for the wonderful article in your May 31st issue. We sincerely appreciate your support!

Ellen Boylan  
Hangar Publicity  
Director

## Soviets Gain from Freeze

To the Editor:

Responding to my letter of last March 1 - 7, Matthew A. Evangelista in his letter, "The Freeze: An American Concept" (May 31 - June 6), tried to play down the Soviet threat. Writing on behalf of the peace studies program at Cornell University, Mr. Evangelista stated that both the Un-

ited States and the Soviet Union continue to increase their military power "regardless of relative levels of spending."

This is false because as Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger points out the Soviets have outspent us by some 400 billion dollars in the area of defense within the last twenty years. Also they have acquired much of our technology through espionage and over-eager business people who put profits ahead of national security.

Therefore, it is highly unlikely that the accuracy of their nuclear weapons would not be as accurate as ours.

Another false claim made by Mr. Evangelista was that on-site inspec-

tion isn't necessary to determine the number of nuclear warheads contained on each Soviet missile. Since satellite sensing systems can only measure the external characteristics of ground features or objects through reflected or radiated energy, it is relatively easy to devise methods of camouflage, concealment and deception to mislead or otherwise impede such sensing systems.

During the Vietnam war satellite sensing systems were in effect but were less than satisfactory in detecting enemy movement along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Therefore, the possibility exists that the Soviets have substantially more weapons than we have given

them credit for. Why else would they camouflage their weapons system and encrypt the telemetry of their missiles being tested?

The reason for such deception should be obvious. If we examine the ideology of Soviet Communism, we find that it requires world conquest. This is the reason, then, for the Soviet Union's poor track record in honoring arms agreements and its unprecedented military buildup.

To imply, as did Mr. Evangelista, that the U.S. is keeping pace with the Soviets just doesn't square with the facts: in the decade of 1971 - 1981 the U.S. allowed its ballistic missile submarines to decline to 31 while the Soviets increased theirs

to 74 (34 over the SALT I limit of 44 [sic]).

Also, the U.S. stalled its own submarine cruise missile program while the Soviets maintained their 69 missile (cruise) subs, 51 of which are equipped with long-range cruise missiles which can cover 50% of the U.S. population and industry from launch positions 100 miles off the U.S. coastline. In the area of air defense, the U.S. cancelled their B-1 bomber program while the Soviets developed their Backfire international bomber at the rate of 30 per year.

It is evident, then, that the Soviets have nothing to lose and much to gain by a nuclear freeze that would leave their first-strike weapons intact.

They could continue their aggressive behavior in Afghanistan, Central America and Southeast Asia, to name a few areas of the world.

Any nation that would shoot down an unarmed civilian aircraft and then decorate the pilot of the fighter plane who shot down that aircraft should not be expected to act honorably with weapons of massive destruction.

Sincerely,  
Robert Bart  
Ithaca, NY

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## EDITOR'S NOTE NEXT WEEK

The Great Escape  
takes you to Owego  
and its Strawberry  
Festival.

