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U.S. rejects SALT for a deterrent to future wars

By Ed Rogers
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President Reagan's decision that the United States will no longer be bound by SALT II was in response to numerous Soviet arms control violations and the U.S. need to "regain a modern, effective deterrent to war," Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said yesterday.

"They [the Soviets] got a head start by simply ignoring the treaty and violating it every day," Mr. Weinberger said. "What we have to do is to regain sufficient deterrent strength."

The United States needs to press ahead on the MX missile, the Midgetman missile and other weapons needed for strategic modernization without the "artificial limits of a flawed and expired treaty," he said.

Mr. Weinberger was questioned on CBS' "Face the Nation" show about the U.S. decision not to be bound any longer by the 1979 treaty. The United States has complied with the treaty until now, although it was never ratified by the Senate.

If the Soviets have a head start and retaliate with new deployments, Mr. Weinberger was asked, will the decision not cost more than it gains?

"They [the Soviets] have deployed 72 SS-25s [intercontinental ballistic missiles] and each one is a violation of the SALT agreement, so any idea that they would retaliate now is really quite absurd," Mr. Weinberger said. "The retaliation took place years ago."

"We aren't after superiority or anything of that kind," he said. "We are not engaged in a spiraling arms race, as they say. What we're trying to do is to regain a modern, effective deterrent to war."

"Bear in mind that the only reason the Soviets signed the SALT II treaty in the first place was that it fully conformed with all of the things they had already planned to do," Mr. Weinberger said.

Asked what the Soviets would have to do to cause the president to reconsider his decision, Mr. Weinberger said one thing would be removing the 72 new SS-25 missiles. Another would be to allow effective verification, he said.

"You can't trust them unless we have abso-



Caspar W. Weinberger

lute verification, and we've never been able to get them to agree to any kind of verification," he said.

Mr. Weinberger also objected to any restraint on developing and deploying a defense system, such as the President Reagan's proposed Strategic Defense Initiative, sometimes called "star wars."

"I think that's the most hopeful prospect mankind has, and the president's high priority that he assigns to that is, I think, absolutely right," he said. "Bear in mind, the Soviets have been working on this 17 years."

Asked about the recent publication of leaks of classified communications intelligence, Mr. Weinberger said it "gives a great deal of aid to the Soviets in knowing what our methods are with respect to intelligence collection, signals information, cryptology and all of those things."

"I don't think anybody wants to put any kind of halts on the press, but what we do wish ... is some kind of restraint, voluntary restraint, so that when you get information that ... can only help the Soviets ... it wouldn't be published."

Mr. Weinberger was asked about threats by CIA Director William Casey to seek prosecutions of those who who publish classified communications intelligence.

"Congress in 1950 passed a statute that said anyone who published this kind of information is liable to a \$10,000 fine and 10 years in jail," Mr. Weinberger noted.