

## Defense secretary warns

# U.S. defense 'must catch up' by 1990

By Suzie Rollins Singer  
staff writer

It will probably be 1990 before the United States can effectively defend itself against Soviet powers, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger said.

"The Soviets have an advantage in nuclear as well as conventional forces. We have to catch up — not missile for missile, bullet for bullet or tank for tank — but we have to regain enough strength so we can make a critical deterrent to attack on conventional as well as strategic sides," he said.

Speaking to reporters prior to his address to the Economic Club of Detroit Monday, Weinberger defended the Reagan defense budget, explaining why he believes the arms race is important.

"It takes a long time to do this," Weinberger added, "and it will be about the end of the decade before we ever recover what we think is sufficient strength, both strategically and conventionally."

THE NEXT few years, as the U.S. tries to catch up, will probably be the most dangerous, Weinberger conceded, saying this is the period often referred to as the "window of vulnerability."

"I hope public opinion will support and sustain, on an annual basis, the very expensive, very difficult task of rearming the country," the defense secretary said.

retary said.

"The other aspect of it is we don't think we can get a good result out of the arms reductions talks that are about to start — and some are going on now — unless we enter negotiations with a considerable and correctly perceived degree of strength," he added.

If that turns out to be true, and the arms buildup continues, Weinberger said, the White House will be able to assure Americans they will be sufficiently armed by the end of the decade.

"In the meantime, if we get a good result of the arms reductions talks, that would be infinitely better, because then we can maintain deterrence and balance at much lower levels," he said.

**BUILDING UP** national defense is vital to all American industries, Weinberger said.

"National defense is the only social program that permits all other social programs to continue to exist," he said.

Arms development could mean more jobs for Michigan residents, but Weinberger made no specific promises. He encouraged more firms to join the competitive bidding list and hoped the government would be a better client than it has been.

"It's important that we buy at the lowest, competitive price. We're looking in areas of high unemployment to do production. Like the (Detroit Arsenal) Tank Plant will be doing some hiring," Weinberger said.

Weinberger hopes more manufacturing companies will become interested in bidding on government jobs.

"The thing that worries me is when we don't have competition. We haven't had enough people willing to bid. Part of that problem is the government has been a very unreliable customer. It started out with big orders, then cancelled them. It hasn't paid any penalties, and that has to stop," he added.

**PROTECTING** the nation's technological secrets is vital if American wants to surpass Russia in power, Weinberger said.

"The Soviet strategic weapons program has benefited substantially from the acquisition of Western technology. The striking similarities between the U.S. Minuteman silo and the Soviet SS-13 silo very likely resulted from acquisition of U.S. documents," he explained.

Most of the technologies transfers, he said, have occurred because of gaps in the international control system, illegally, by controlled "front" corporations, by co-opting businessmen and factory workers, through bribery and other questionable transactions.

While trying to catch up with the Russians, Weinberger said, it is important to keep the new technology a secret. He did not, however, advocate a breakdown in free trade.

"We have to be more careful in protect our technology. The administration is implementing a new program of domestic export controls designed to safeguard American technology from compromise," he said.

## Mester named to court

Fred M. Mester of Huntington Woods was appointed as circuit judge in Oakland County by Gov. William G. Milliken.

His term begins June 5 and expires Jan. 1, 1995.

Mester succeeds Judge Farrell Roberts, who retires June 4. Mester will be

eligible to run for a full six-year term in the 1984 general election.

A graduate of Wayne State University Law School, he is the former chief of the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office and assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. Senate confirmation is not required.

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