

Reagan's arms policy: deterrent or paranoid?

The U.S. has 'a strong military force' but lags behind the Soviets. Reagan's defensive weapons are 'a helpful deterrent to nuclear war.'

— Col. Otis Bryan

By Carol Azizian
staff writer

Is President Reagan's new strategic defense proposal a "vision of the future that offers hope" for peace or a paranoid idea designed to escalate the nuclear arms race?

That question was being debated by analysts visiting Oakland County after Reagan gave his defense policy address last week. The president's new proposal calls for the United States to move

away from a 20-year-old doctrine of retaliation against a Soviet nuclear strike and develop a multibillion-dollar 21st century weapons system to destroy incoming enemy missiles.

Two experts — one from Washington, D.C. and the other from the Detroit area — gave their views on Reagan's proposal last week before a standing-room-only crowd in the Southfield Civic Center. The program was sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Metropolitan Detroit Area.

COL. OTIS BRYAN, deputy director of the Air Force Issues Team at the Pentagon, called the proposal a "thoughtful

and necessary" step on the road to peace.

Maurice Waters, a political science professor at Wayne State University, said it was a dangerous idea espoused by a president who continually has maintained a "myopic and paranoid outlook on world affairs."

Bryan, after outlining the history of the nuclear arms buildup, said the president painted an "accurate picture" of the U.S.-Soviet arms race.

Although the United States has a "strong military force," it still lags behind the Soviets, Bryan said.

The Air Force officer called the new

defensive weapons "a helpful deterrent to nuclear war."

SOVIETS AND Americans both have "very strong development programs which will permit us to use lasers as weapons," he said.

But, he added, "we're at least 20 years away from being able to perfect those as operational weapons."

"We already have demonstrated the capability to shoot down an airplane or guided missile with a laser. That was basically a laboratory demonstration."

"However, it is a far different problem to try and shoot down — from the ground or from space — an ICBM (intercontinental ballistic missile) that is 5,000 miles away, coming at you at 18,000 miles an hour."

These space-age weapons won't be the "ultimate" weapons, Bryan said. "There's no such thing as an ultimate

weapon. But they will be tools we can use."

WATERS CRITICIZED development of space-age weaponry as just another means of "continuing the arms race."

"Some say we can use this as a bargaining chip to force the other side to build new devices and use outer space as a way of controlling another country, we can be sure the other country will do exactly the same thing."

Reagan's new proposal, Waters said, must be examined within the context of the president's views on world affairs.

"When the president looks at the world, he cites the Soviet Union as the source of all evil. He has a myopic and paranoid outlook on world affairs."

"How then can he enter into meaningful negotiations with the Soviets? My hunch is that he can't because he really doesn't want to."

"I think the president regrets we are no longer the dominant world power that we were in the 1950s and 1960s, and he longs for a return to that time."

BOTH BRYAN and Waters agreed the president should be working toward negotiating an arms control agreement.

'How can he enter into meaningful negotiations with the Soviets? My hunch is that he can't because he really doesn't want to.'

— Prof. Maurice Waters

"If we can get the Soviets to agree to substantial arms reduction, it has to be equitable," Bryan said. "That means neither side can gain an advantage with what's left."

"We have to make sure they won't cheat on the agreement," Bryan added. "Let's get a treaty that serves the interests of both sides. For example, the ABM Treaty (the 1972 U.S.-Soviet agreement to limit anti-ballistic missile sites) is a good one."

Waters agreed but expressed reservations about the Reagan administration's desire to work toward that end.

Busiest interchange carries 543,000 daily

The Southfield and I-96 freeway interchange ranks No. 1 on a list of the 10 busiest interchanges in southeast Michigan.

According to data compiled by the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), some 543,000 vehicles travel through that western Detroit interchange in a single day. SEMCOG drew that conclusion from a 24-hour count of vehicles entering and leaving the interchange.

THE OTHER nine busiest interchanges are:

1-96 and Telegraph, Redford — 486,400 vehicles traveling through daily.

1-96 and I-94, central Detroit — 464,000.

1-75 and I-94, Detroit — 462,700.

Northwestern and Telegraph, Southfield — 415,300.

I-94 and Lodge, Detroit — 403,500.

1-94 and Southfield, western Detroit — 359,900.

1-75 and Lodge, Detroit — 334,500.

Southfield and Eight Mile, Detroit-Southfield border — 303,100.

Lodge and Eight Mile, Detroit-Southfield border — 278,500.

SEMCOG also compiled data on the 10 busiest surface route intersections in the region.

The Ford Road/Telegraph intersection in Dearborn Heights is the busiest, with a peak hour volume of 12,000 vehicles entering and leaving.

Peak hours can vary from day to day and from intersection to intersection. Generally, it is 4-5 p.m. or 8-9 p.m.

The other nine locations and their peak hour volumes are: Eight Mile and Van Dyke, 11,300; Eight Mile and Mound, 11,100; 12 Mile and Van Dyke, 11,000; Six Mile and Telegraph, 10,800; Eight Mile and Dequindre, 10,200; Eight Mile and Livernois, 10,000; Eight Mile and Gratiot, 9,900; Plymouth and Telegraph, 9,500; Telegraph and 12 Mile, 9,400.

Dems' dinner honors Fraser

Doug Fraser, retiring United Auto Workers union president, will be honored at the 33rd annual Jefferson Jackson Dinner, the major fund-raising event for the Michigan Democratic Party.

The dinner will begin with a cocktail hour 6-7 p.m. April 9 in the Renaissance Ballroom of the Detroit Westin Hotel.

A Special Century Fund reception for members and guests will be held in the pool area on the third level at the same time as the cocktail hour.

Featured speakers will be Gov. James J. Blanchard and Lt. Gov. Martha W. Griffiths.

Chairman of the dinner is Philip Power, chairman of the board of Suburban Communications Corp., parent company of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Tickets at \$75 are available from the state party office in Detroit, 824-7244.

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