

# WANT PEACE? FORGET SALT 2!

Since July 9, the Senate has been officially debating ratification of the second phase of the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty and a vote is not expected until Thanksgiving. SALT II was signed three months ago in Vienna--after seven years and 300 meetings between the two superpowers.

At that time, Jimmy Carter hailed the SALT Treaty as "crucial to peace in our time." The USSR said it shows that "there is no reasonable alternative to detente." The world was told that a new nail had been driven into the coffin of the spectre of nuclear holocaust.

But the terms of the treaty itself, to say nothing of the lengthy Senate debate, prove exactly the opposite. SALT II is a flimsy smokescreen of peace talk. It covers a stepped up and streamlined arms race between the rulers of the US and USSR, which resembles more and more the escalating war preparations of European nations during the years before World War II.

## THE HYPOCRISY OF SALT

Just look at the terms of the Treaty. Each side is permitted to build a total of 2,250 weapons systems capable of landing nuclear warheads on the other's territory. This total includes only intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-based missiles and long-range bombers.

Furthermore, 1,320 of these systems are allowed to carry multiple warheads, each with a separate target. To top it off, each side gets to build 4,000 new atomic warheads, giving the US a total of 12,000 and doubling the Soviet stockpile to 8,000. Some arms limitation!

Even the specific limitations can hardly be described as advancing disarmament. The USSR is freezing manufacture of SS-19 medium range missiles and the enormous SS-18 ICBMs, which can carry up to 40 warheads each. They aren't upset by this, because instead they can concentrate on hardening their launching sites and increasing the accuracy of such miss-



iles--very poor compared with US systems.

Likewise, the US is not allowed to deploy the new MX mobile missile during the term of the treaty. But the 200,000 pound monsters won't be ready until the late 1980s anyway.

In the meantime, development continues. \$40 billion will be spent on the MX System, in which 200 of the huge missiles will be shuffled around from silo to silo in the Southwest at random like the peas in a deadly shell game. Arizona and New Mexico are to become a sponge to absorb enemy missiles fired at mainly empty launching sites.

What's more, many new developments in nuclear devastation aren't even mentioned, such as the Soviet Backfire bomber and the US cruise missile, which can hug the ground below radar level on its way to detonating its warhead within 50 feet of a programmed target. And the intense

buildup in nonnuclear weaponry falls outside the scope of SALT entirely.

During the last seven years of dickering at the negotiating table and technical leaps on the testing grounds, the danger of war has grown. Ironically, the expansion of their abilities to devastate the world has led the masters of the US and USSR to reconsider the theory, long dominant in diplomatic circles, of "mutually assured destruction" (MAD).

This theory holds that as long as each side can reduce the other to radioactive rubble, neither would dare start a war. Now, for the first time in two decades, both superpowers have open advocates of the "winnable war" proposition. The massive Soviet civil defense and evacuation plan is intended to help "win" despite a nuclear attack. The pinpoint accuracy of US missiles is useful mainly for taking out protected Soviet launching sites in a first strike, not for holding big

## BOAT PEOPLE

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mainly workers, fled across the border to China.

Rich Chinese merchants from Ho Chi Minh City wouldn't travel all the way up North to enter a communist country. They no longer deny it, so how do the Vietnamese authorities explain why common laborers would flee their "socialist paradise?"

Vietnamese spokesmen claim that China has been issuing propaganda that urges northern refugees to leave Vietnam. This claim is preposterous.

First of all, China's policy has been to discourage refugees from leaving Vietnam and entering China, particularly since the 250,000 refugees China reluctantly admitted over the past year place a heavy strain on her economy.

Secondly, the Hoa people in Vietnam hardly take their orders from China. They have lived in and helped build Vietnam for generations. In fact, many were members of Vietnam's Communist Party and had served in the army fighting the United States. They had suffered along with the rest of Vietnam under the most intensive bombing in history.

Vietnam also sobs that China is an expansionist power trying to gain hegemony over all Indochina. This

contradicts their claim that propaganda causes northern Hoa to leave. If expansion were really China's aim, China would surely want sympathetic Chinese ethnics to remain as a fifth column.

Viet Nam and its Russian overlords are intent on militarily dominating South-East Asia. This ambitious plan has been such an incredible drain they can't put their economy in order.

So they must drive out hundreds of thousands of hungry mouths to protect their scheme. Who could be a more convenient target than an easily identifiable ethnic minority.

## HAITIANS

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and the callousness of the U.S. Department of Immigration.

The horror of this incident has called attention to the plight of thousands of Haitians who come to this country in small boats 714 miles from Haiti or from a stopover in the Bahamas. They are fleeing from a country where over 35,000 have been executed since 1967 for political opposition, where peasants are forced off their land to make room for the foreign companies that dominate the Haitian economy, and where unemployment is over 60%.

Over 1 million Haitians, 1/4 of the population, have fled to other countries. But while the U.S. govern-

ment welcomes refugees from Cuba, Vietnam and Nicaragua (where pro-U.S. governments have been overthrown) with open arms, Haitian immigrants are greeted with jail cells and deportation. "Starvation," claims the Immigration Department, "is not a political issue," so Haitian immigrants do not qualify as "political" refugees.

A movement against deportation is growing among Haitians in this country, particularly in Miami where there were protests and marches last spring. A Miami immigration judge responded by temporarily halting deportation hearings for Haitians requesting political asylum, while the State Department did an investigation. Shortly after the State Department determined that Haitians who were deported back home were in fact in no danger. But this ruling has come under a lot of fire. It was conducted by interviewing refugees already back in Haiti who would not dare speak out against the government for fear of their lives.

The Miami Haitian Refugee Center, backed by the Council of Churches, is demanding a blanket political asylum for Haitians refugees. The deaths of a mother and 5 young children have called attention to the Haitian "boat people". But unless the U.S. State Department and Immigration Service reverse their policy towards Haitians, tragic incidents like this will happen again.

population centers hostage in the MAD scenario.

## THE SENATE DEBATE

The initial stage of the SALT debate in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was a forum for the Pentagon and its pet academics to holler about the momentum Soviet war preparations have gained since SALT I in 1974.

Before the hearings began, presidential hopeful Senator Howard Baker came out against the Treaty. So did some notable Senate Democrats like Henry "Scoop" Jackson and Sam Nunn.

By August, however, the main question was no longer support for or opposition to SALT II. The real issue surfaced when two key figures testified.

Instead of opposing the Treaty as the administration feared, they opened the road to unity and passage. Former Nixon aide and former NATO chief General Alexander Haig said he supported SALT - if the US moves to double defense spending over the next few years.

Henry Kissinger, who negotiated SALT I, repeated Haig's pitch. He also proposed that future arms limitation talks be stopped if the Kremlin does not practice military restraint around the world.

His call for a policy of "linkage" between arms talks and other issues reversed his own stand while Secretary of State under Nixon and Ford. Then he opposed linking policy on US-Soviet trade with Soviet foreign policy or the early SALT II negotiations with Russian and Cuban intervention in Angola.

SALT II now stands a good chance of winning in the Senate--provided it becomes the vehicle for a profound shift in US defense policy. The administration and liberal establishment fell all over each other uniting with Haig and Kissinger in agreeing to step up military preparations and in a tougher stance against Soviet expansionism around the world.

## THE REALITY OF SUPERPOWER RELATIONS

The Senate's warlike approach to a Treaty that has been peddled to the public as a triumph for peace and disarmament is not surprising. It just underlines the growing clash of interests between the rulers of the US and USSR.

The New Czars of the Soviet Union are on the move. They didn't stop in Angola but have expanded their armed interference in Ethiopia, in Afghanistan, in Kampuchea (Cambodia) and elsewhere. For their part, the rulers of this country see that their dominant position in much of the world is in mortal danger from the USSR.

Both sides know that eventually the question of who is to be top dog can only be settled on the battlefield. Both sides are preparing. SALT II serves as a propaganda vehicle to hide their intentions and actions.

It also shows that the drive to war is not yet all-out. The two superpowers can still meet jointly to set certain minimal and mutually advantageous limits on their expensive and unpopular arms race.

But in the final analysis, if you are concerned about Soviet expansion, SALT won't stop it; if you oppose the US arms build up, SALT won't slow it; if you want peace, SALT won't get it; and if you fear the devastation of a nuclear war, SALT won't prevent it.