

bility to penetrate Soviet defenses. He would achieve this by continued development of more sophisticated missiles such as the submarine-launched Poseidon and the land-based Minuteman III. By the same token, he is convinced that U.S. deployment of an ABM system to defend its cities would merely lead the Soviets to increase their offensive forces accordingly, with the result that no U.S. lives would be saved. McNamara rejects the view of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that the Soviets would not invest the resources necessary to create a force capable of overwhelming and nullifying the U.S. defenses.

The Secretary has indicated that an ABM deployment, if undertaken at all, should provide a "thin" defense of the entire U.S. and a "point" defense of some Minuteman offensive missile squadrons in the West. Such a deployment would be expected to provide an additional safeguard for the U.S. deterrent force and offer some protection against an accidental attack or against the kind of light, unsophisticated attack which Red China might be capable of launching in the 1970's. The deployment desired by the Joint Chiefs and by Senator Russell would be designed to protect U.S. missile-launching sites and 50 major cities.

If a large number of voters suddenly began living in daily fear of nuclear attack, President Johnson clearly would be in trouble on the ABM issue, which, in the abstract, may be too technical to arouse much emotion. Despite the possibility of a great-power conflict over Vietnam, most people appear to behave as though assured that peace, three good meals a day, and 72-degree central heating will be their lot forever. Thus, political pressure for ABM deployment may not become compelling, even if Congress does as it has in the past and appropriates money for production of an ABM system that the administration doesn't want.

Some believers in the "military-industrial complex" theory hold that the interests of ABM contractors and the localities in which their plants are located can generate irresistible pressures. In the event of an attempt some day to bring about general disarmament, the "complex" may indeed reveal itself as a formidable beast. But on questions of deploying or phasing out individual weapon systems, even very costly ones, the economic interests seem too localized to be a dominant political factor

## NEWS IN BRIEF

● **HEALTH PROFESSIONALS PROTEST WAR:** More than 5000 doctors, nurses, social workers and other health professionals signed a petition addressed to President Johnson protesting the war in Viet Nam and the resultant diversion of funds from domestic U.S. programs. The petition was presented last week to Dr. Philip Lee, assistant secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. The petition advocates U Thant's three-point program: cease bombing North Viet Nam, deescalate our military activity, and negotiate with all parties, including the National Liberation Front. It also condemns "the huge number of military and civilian casualties, the multitude of napalm-burned children, the use of chemical warfare, the epidemics ravaging millions of refugees, and other human tragedies of the war." The health professionals further state: "We protest our government's diversion of funds and energies from health, anti-poverty, and other pressing domestic programs in pursuit of the war." Among the sponsors of the protest are Leon Eisenberg, Lewis Fraad, Hudson Hoagland, John Holloman, Louis Lascagna, Arthur Kornberg, Salvatore E. Luria, Jean Mayer, Pitirim Sorokin, Benjamin Spock, and Albert Szent-Györgyi.

● **ANTARCTIC TREATY INSPECTIONS:** United States observers inspected seven stations at Antarctica in February and March, under provisions of the Antarctic Treaty of 1959, and found no evidence of any violations. The treaty outlaws military use of the South Polar continent and allows the 12 member nations to inspect the area to insure that treaty provisions are obeyed. The scientific programs and support activity, the five-man team reported, "gave every appearance of being carried out in consonance" with the treaty. Stations inspected were those of Argentina, Australia, France, Japan, South Africa, United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union.

● **MEDICAL SCHOOL FACULTIES:** The full-time faculty membership in the nation's 88 medical colleges continues to grow faster than the number of students but forecasters say that competition for faculty will increase in

the period ahead. The annual report of the American Medical Association Council on Medical Education shows that the student-teacher ratio in 1965-66 was 1.9 to 1, compared with 2.7 to 1 in 1960-61. The number of full-time faculty members in 1965-66 was 10.5 percent greater than the previous academic year. The report notes that teachers are doing an increased amount of research and have expanded instruction responsibilities including interns, residents, predoctoral and postdoctoral graduate students, and paramedical trainees. Even with the increase of faculty members, the number of vacancies climbed to a record 1115 in the last academic year. The report predicts the search for full-time faculty will be accelerated by the development of 16 new medical colleges, the proposed expansion of present ones and possible establishment of federal projects requiring medical personnel.

● **PEN BEATS HARVARD:** A Crimson team was defeated by one in black and white stripes recently in a "college bowl" type quiz. Five inmates at the Norfolk (Massachusetts) State Prison answered their way to a 96 to 82 victory over a panel of Harvard students. This marked the third year in a row that the Ivy League school dropped a quiz contest to the pedantic prisoners. As one Harvard student said: "They're sharper than we are." Each side makes up the questions for the other using a wide range of trivia. For example: "Name the only country to rid itself of Communist government. (San Marino)", and "Who said '*Après moi le déluge*'? (Louis V)." The inmates answered these two readily and proved quite knowledgeable on mythology, fish, French, and Renaissance music and literature. The Norfolk prison, which is proving itself to be quite an educational institution, also has a debate society which has defeated such opponents as the Oxford Union. A well-stocked prison library and courses taught at Norfolk by Harvard volunteers help make the prisoners more than a match for the students. A Harvard team will return to Norfolk next year but is not too confident of winning unless one of the prison experts is ruled ineligible because of solitary confinement, which has happened.