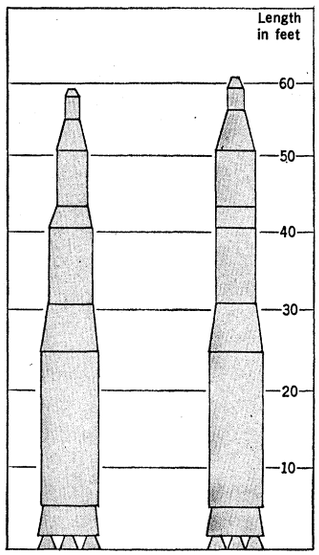
AAAS Symposia

AAAS Annual Meeting • Boston



Minuteman Missile

Arms Control and Disarmament

Arranged by Herman Feshbach (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

26–27 December 1969

The arms race poses a threat for human survival. As the available destructive power escalates and becomes more sophisticated, the present strategic balance becomes more delicate and we are all the more insecure. The problems and prospects for arms control will be discussed. The present thinking behind arms-control plans, and the resulting technical problems will be delineated. The various elements making up the strategic balance will be examined. These include a detailed consideration of the economic impact of the arms race, the threat of new but as yet undeployed weapons systems, the chemical and biological weapons, and the very great improvement in the technology of surveillance.

Current Problems and Prospects for Arms Control, Jerome Wiesner (M.I.T.).

Strategic Arms Limitation, George Rathjens (M.I.T.).

Impact of New Technology on Prospects for Arms Control and Disarmament, Frank Long (Cornell University).

The Hazards of Developing a Chemical and Biological Warfare Program, Alexander Rich (M.I.T.).

Verification of Limitations on Strategic Arms, Herbert Scoville, Jr. (Brookings Institution).

The Costs and Consequences of the Arms Race, Jeremy Stone (Council on Foreign Relations, New York).

The Sorry History of Arms Control, Bernard Feld (M.I.T.).

Chemical and Biological Warfare

Arranged by Daniel M. Singer (Federation of American Scientists).

27 December 1969

The symposium aims first to present the current status, potentialities, and technical limitations of antipersonnel chemical and biological (bacteriological) weapons of war. The symposium will further explore ethical and moral aspects associated with usage of such weapons and their possible impact on combatant and civilian populations. National and international policy questions will be considered regarding support or prohibition of research, both defensive and offensive, field-testing, stockpiling, and use of chemical and biological weapons.

Potentialities and Technological Limits of CB Weapons for Antipersonnel Uses, Albert E. Hayward (Defense Research and Engineering, U.S. Department of Defense).

Prospects for Agreements to Control the Spread and Use of CB Weapons, Ivan L. Bennett, Jr. (New York University Medical Center).

Uncertainties in CB Weapons Research, Testing, and Use, Stuart A. Rice (University of Chicago).

"Non-Lethal" Chemical Warfare?, Matthew S. Meselson (Harvard University).

CBW as an Ethical Challenge, Victor W. Sidel (Montefiore Hospital).

Discussants: Richard D. McCarthy (U.S. House of Representatives), Alexander Rich (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), and George H. Milly (Geomet, Inc., Rockville, Maryland).