the process of signing and ratifying those agreements.

Smith does not note that (i) the Committee used the 1969 Vienna Convention of the Law of Treaties and decisions of the International Court of Justice concerning unilateral commitments as the legal basis for analyzing Soviet compliance behavior; (ii) the GAC carefully distinguished among the categories of material breaches; (iii) the GAC distinguished between the 17 instances for which the evidence indicates with high confidence that material Soviet breaches have occurred and those numerous areas for which the evidence gives substantial reason for suspicion but is not conclusive; (iv) it was the purpose of the report to look at all data concerning Soviet behavior under arms control constraints and not to disregard information on the basis of a prior bias or rationalization; and (v) several Soviet actions that may appear to be minor breaches when viewed in isolation and with only limited information take on a more serious complexion when viewed in the context of other Soviet actions and in light of all evidence that has been acquired to date.

Finally, the title of Smith's article implies that those concerned about Soviet cheating are really opposed to arms control and are using the violations issue as a way to block any new agreement. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is not the discovery and discussion of Soviet cheating that endangers arms control, but the cheating itself that discredits arms control as an instrument of international relations. The arms control process is strengthened when the parties comply with their commitments.

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Although Van Cleave says that the article was misleading, he does not identify anything misleading in it, and I stand by it as a fair and accurate portrayal of the report and the ongoing debate over treaty compliance.

The article did not suggest that only arms control opponents are concerned about Soviet treaty violations. In fact, it prominently featured statements of concern by longtime arms control advocates such as Paul Warnke and Gerard Smith, as well as moderates such as Gary Hart.—R. JEFFREY SMITH

Erratum: In M. Mitchell Waldrop's briefing "Reagan names space commission" (News and Comment, 12 Apr., p. 160), Charles M. Herzfeld's name was spelled incorrectly.