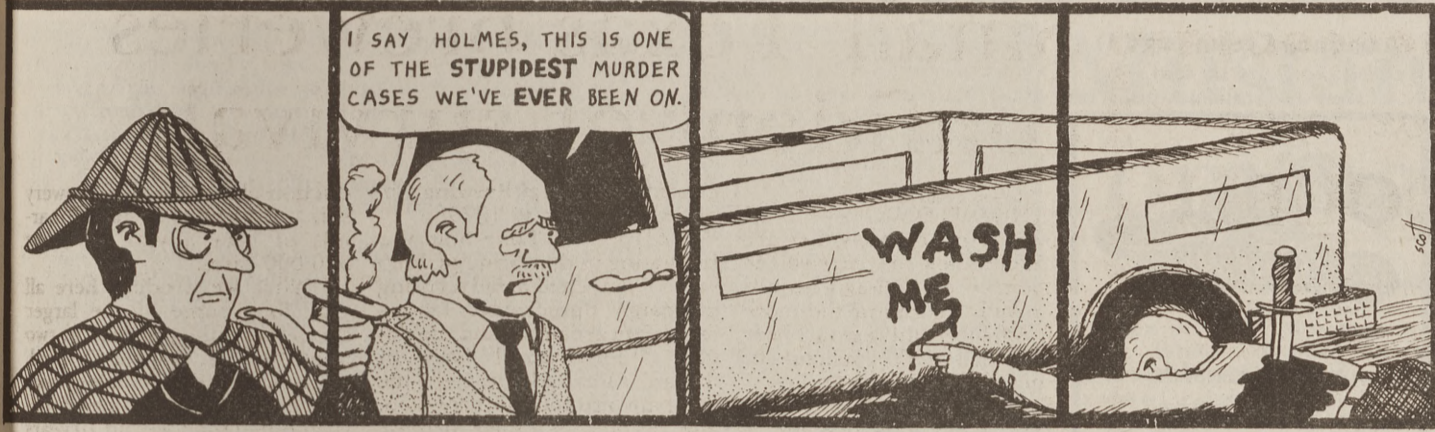


Warped

By Scott McCullar



# U.S. doesn't want to reach arms agreements, Russia says

**United Press International**  
**MOSCOW** — The Soviet Union went public Wednesday with its latest offer at the Geneva missile reduction talks and said the United States does not really want to reach an agreement.

"It is difficult to get rid of the impression that Washington would wish to use the negotiations at Geneva in order to calm the public of the Western European countries," Tass, the official Soviet news agency, said.

The real aim of the Reagan Administration is to justify the installation of its own medium-range missiles in Europe "by deliberately leading the negotiations into a blind alley," said the Tass statement, which was prominently displayed in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda and other major newspapers.

Tass criticized the U.S. proposal saying it would mean unilateral disarmament for the Soviet Union.

The U.S. proposal calls for dismantling the Soviet fleet of triple-warhead SS-20 rockets in exchange for abandonment of NATO plans to install almost 600 missiles of its own in Europe.

Instead, the Soviets renewed their proposal for a mutual reduction of what they call forward-based nuclear means, which includes bombers and submarines as well as the British and French nuclear forces.

That would mean a reduction of current arsenals — estimated by the Soviets at 1,000 units on each side — to 600 in 1985 and 300 in 1990, Tass said.

Western experts say the idea of a joint reduction is unhelpful because the Soviets already have a 3-1 advantage in theater nuclear weapons and cutbacks would not change that.

The Soviet statement, aimed at wavering NATO governments and the thousands in Europe who demonstrated

against nuclear arms last year, appeared despite a commitment by both sides to conduct the Geneva negotiations behind closed doors, a Western diplomat said.

The Tass statement claimed the U.S. proposal would allow the West to deliver 1.5 times as many warheads against it and its allies as they could return to Europe.

"Washington's genuine design ... lies in creating ... a logjam at the negotiations ... and trying to lay the blame for this at the door of the Soviet Union," Tass said.

The Soviet proposal, expanding on a presentation made by President Leonid Brezhnev last week, was carried without a signature, indicating it came from leading Kremlin figures.

Tass said the Soviet proposal would apply to all medium-range nuclear weapons with a range of at least 620 miles, deployed in Europe or adjacent waters, and added, verification measures will be worked out.

The Soviet Union said each side would determine the weapons removed and could modernize or replace weapons within the agreed levels. Weapons removed should be destroyed, except for some drawn behind agreed lines, it said.

Tass again proposed a moratorium on deployment of further medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe during negotiations. The Soviets maintain East and West forces are roughly equal, a position disputed by Washington.

The United States rejected a moratorium nearly a year ago, saying it would only perpetuate a Soviet military advantage in Europe. For the same reason, it rejected staged reductions.

The United States has excluded submarine-launched missiles and the independent forces of France and Britain

from negotiations, but Moscow includes them in its calculations of missiles.

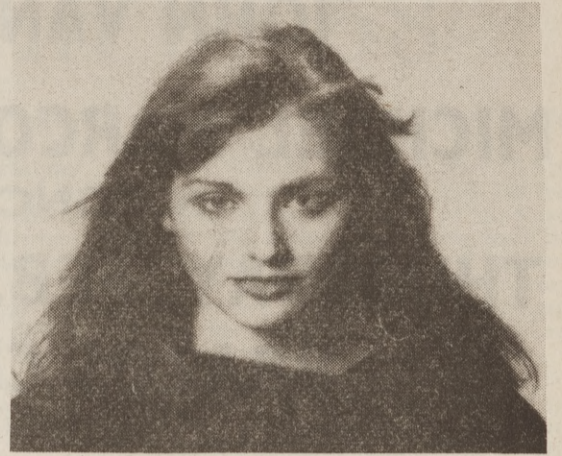
In Geneva, Eugene Rostow,

director of the U.S. Disarmament Agency, said the talks are being held "in a constructive atmosphere."

# Backstage

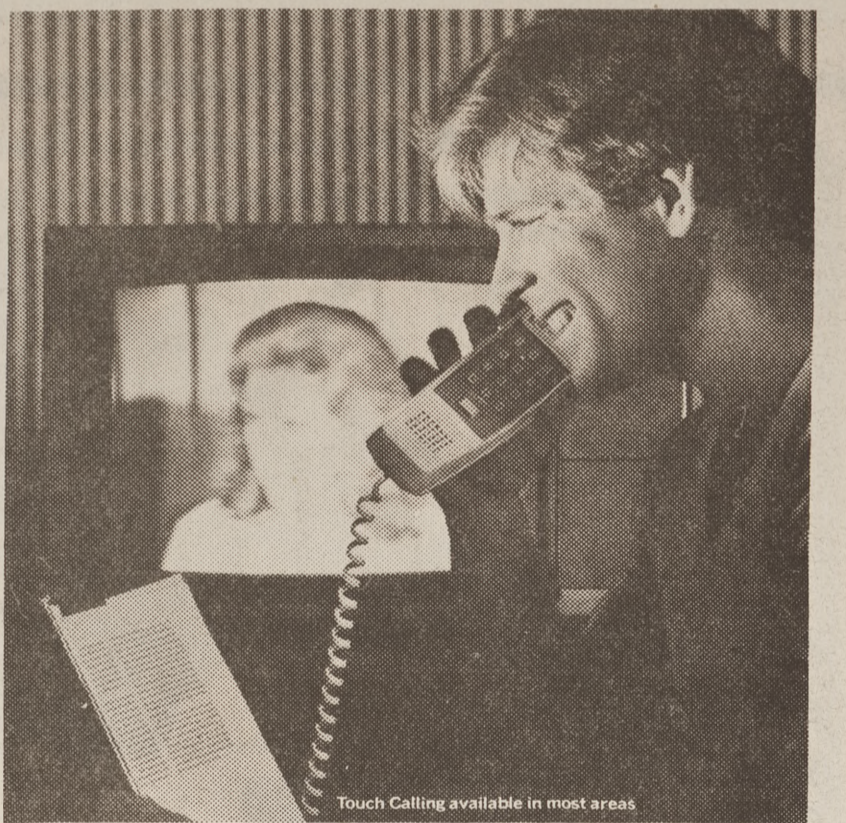
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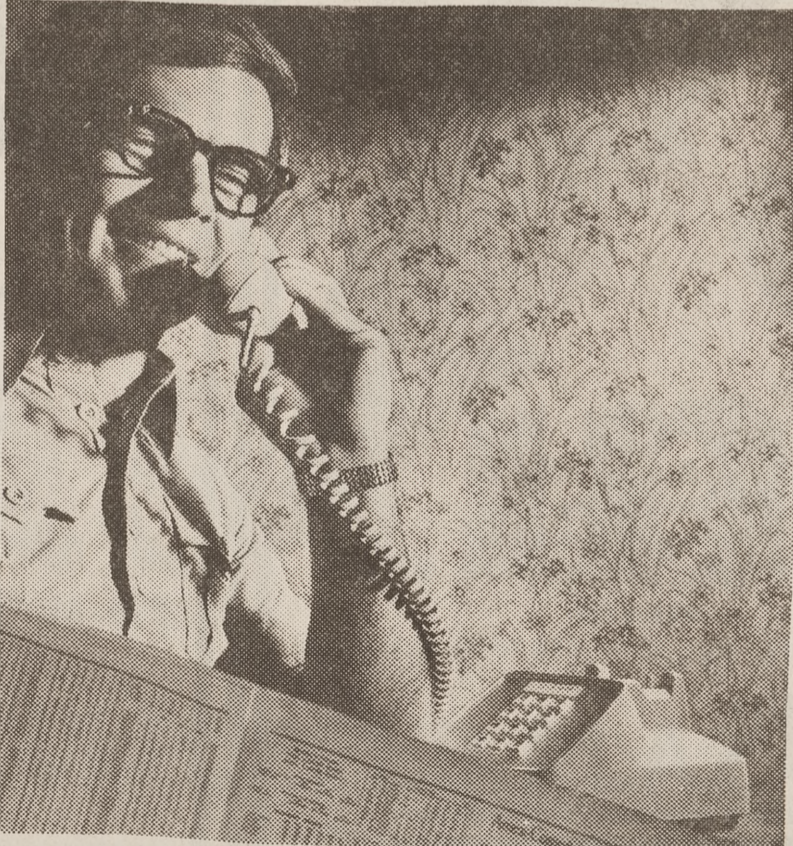


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