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Arms negotiator helps students plan strategy

DALLAS (AP) — Students at Southern Methodist University toyed with nuclear confrontation Tuesday, receiving a few tips from real-life arms negotiator John Tower as they tried to keep the peace.

"You have to keep your national interest foremost in mind," Tower, a former U.S. senator, told about 250 freshmen and transfer students gathered on campus to play a game of simulated nuclear confrontation as part of orientation activities.

The game, called "Wildfire," was created by the Roosevelt Center for Policy Studies. The session was Tower's first appearance in his role as distinguished lecturer in SMU's political science department.

Tower said the game of nuclear confrontation has more substance than most orientation sessions, but said the scenarios of superpowers on the brink of nuclear confrontation were simplistic.

The students split into several groups, with teams of three or four students representing the United States, China, the Soviet Union, Pakistan and India.

In the game's scenario the year is 1988 and India and Pakistan are on the brink of war. Pakistan, which has vowed not to suffer another defeat, has the capability to fire a nuclear

"Napoleon once said that you can do anything with a bayonet but sit on it. You can't do anything with a nuclear weapon but sit on it."

— Arms negotiator John Tower.

warning shot and students have less than two hours to decide how to react to the situation.

Despite a few tense moments when fingers hovered on the trigger of nuclear arsenals, all the students warded off nuclear war.

"They all somehow came to some resolution," said Judy Mohraz, assistant provost, who is in charge of academic orientation. "Some of the adult groups that have played do it (start a nuclear war)."

In the one group that resorted to conventional warfare, peace had been successfully negotiated, said Steve Wyatt, 17, a pre-med major.

The decision to attack another country automatically stops the game, although students were not warned beforehand.

In another group, Pakistani negotiators threatened to launch a clear attack, demanding that the Soviets withdraw from Afghanistan and that the government give up control of the mir.

The Soviets mobilized, threatened the United States with a fleet within striking distance of the Indian subcontinent, forcing that country to return from a promise of peace to a promise of peace negotiations from India.

Tempers grew heated as the negotiators argued for control. "We're just as poor and hungry as you are and we need Kashmir," said India representative Steve Kimzey, 17.

Tower talked to reporters during the morning, saying that negotiators often use similar work out contingency plans.

"There's a lot of game that goes on in the Department of Defense and the Department of State," Tower said.

He underlined the importance of nuclear weapons as a deterrent. "Napoleon once said that you can do anything with a bayonet but sit on it," he said. "You can't do anything with a nuclear weapon but sit on it."

Mayor denounces buyout offer

MONT BELVIEU (AP) — The mayor of this petrochemical community told Warren Petroleum Co. officials its offer to buy out 21 property owners near their plant is unfair and unacceptable.

Residents on Pablo Street got earnest money contracts over the weekend and were given 30 days to decide whether to accept the offers. Under the plan, all must sell and relocate at least two miles away.

Mont Belvieu, a community of about 1,800 people, sits a few miles north of Interstate 10, about 25 miles east of Houston.

"You make a reasonable offer to

some to get lower-priced people to agree," Mayor Fred Miller told Warren officials on Monday. "You give them \$20,000 and tell them to get out. They would like to go, but they can't go on what you've offered them."

The plan is similar but separate from the Mont Belvieu Project, a program supported by a consortium of 13 industries, which store more than 120 million barrels of hydrocarbon gases in caverns located under the homes.

Both projects propose to relocate

residents endangered by the trial complex.

The Mont Belvieu Project includes 189 properties affected by a gas leak in 1980 that forced the evacuation of 69 families for up to 10 months. It does not require a percentage participation, or include a trust restriction.

Miller said the two-mile restriction would require Pablo Street residents to live outside the city limits. "They have to put in water and sewer and other things that are expensive for residents of the city."

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