

If you want peace, must you prepare for war?

U.S. should use diplomacy, but be ready for worst-case scenario with missiles



BRIENNE PORTER

The first weekend in June, President Clinton and Russian President Vladimir Putin met to discuss potential changes to the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. The conference centered around Clinton's possible buildup of the United States' National Missile Defense (NMD) system.

With Russian and international relations in the line, many believe that a buildup of missiles should not occur. These arguments against missile buildup include the belief that the "global community" will be threatened and the idea that negotiations should be used instead of force. Yet all of these reasons fail to counter a serious reason for adding to the United States' missile supply: While other countries increase their security with nuclear missiles, the United States is the only nation worried about how its buildup will appear to others. It is preposterous that the United States is putting faith and trust into countries that do not return that trust and instead work their own domestic missile defense.

Many critics argue that the United States will jeopardize its relations with other nations by building even a limited NMD. According to the *New York Times*, there is fear such an announcement will be interpreted as a threat and begin a Cold War-type arms race among countries including China, India and Pakistan. While this possibility is alarming, it should not deter the United States from protecting its citizens. Currently, the United States has no agreement with those three nations to stop augmenting NMD systems. This means while the United States does not build up its NMD because of the fear of risking international relations, these other nations will still do so without that fear.

None of those countries have come forward diplomatically to confer with the U.S. government about their NMD systems, yet the United States seems compelled to do just that with other nations. The Chinese already have a small arsenal of nuclear weapons, and there is nothing stopping their government from adding to it.

Others hold to the belief that in a "global community," there should not be a need for an increase in the NMD system. These critics say that this is an era of negotiations and diplomacy, not of weapons and violence. Yet the

Brienne Porter is a sophomore chemical engineering major.

Sufficient protection offered by current treaties, lack of international threats



SUNNYE OWENS

The defense plan for the United States has always been a great debate within American politics. Recently, President Clinton and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed the U.S. and Russian defense plans. Clinton and Putin talked about the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM), an agreement between the United States and Russia limiting short-range missiles, and the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START III) program, which seeks to reduce U.S. and Russian arsenals.

Besides ABM and START III, Putin and Clinton talked about the hair-trigger response item, which will take U.S. and Russian nuclear weapons off the immediate-release alert.

During the meeting, Clinton also emphasized to Putin that he wants to build up U.S. missile supplies, breaking the original ABM treaty. Clinton is mistaken; there is absolutely no need for the United States to increase missile supplies. There is no country that poses a threat to the United States. Recently, China, Pakistan and India have increased defensive missile supplies, but this will have no effect on the United States as it has a much more advanced defense system than those countries.

During the meeting, Clinton said, "Unless Russia agrees to let the U.S. build a limited missile defense against terrorist attack, then America will withdraw from the ABM treaty." However, America already has more nuclear warheads and by far more missiles than any other country. There is

simply no need for America to spend any more money on weapons.

Clinton contradicted himself during the meeting with Putin when he said, "America attaches great importance on enhancing the viability of a treaty."

Clinton is the one who wants America to break the ABM and START III agreements with Russia if it does not agree with the increase of American missiles. If America decides to build up its missiles and break the ABM treaty with Russia, then there will be no limits to the number of missiles Russia will be able to accumulate. The ABM keeps the Russian defense system in check.

Although Clinton is in favor of an augmentation of American missiles, he gives no reason for one. He said, "As we enter this new millennium, we should commit ourselves anew to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons."

While the hair-trigger alert agreement will do that very thing, Clinton urges that America should build up its missiles even though he said "The United States remains committed to a weapon-free goal."

If Clinton decides to break the ABM treaty, not only will he create a tense weapon environment between Russia and the United States but the breakup of the agreement would create insecurity for the American people because Russia would have no limitations as to the number of missiles it could produce. The ABM and START III agreements are excellent treaties that offer security to Americans.

Very few consider the effect an American missile buildup will have on other countries. The increase of American missiles may cause other countries to build up their own arms.

They may see America as a threat to their own security and could possibly act upon this threat. The American public should not stand for Clinton's ideal American defense plan. If Clinton feels a need for America to break its ABM agreement with Russia, then he needs to consider the effects of this decision, such as the creation of a bad relationship between the United States and Russia.

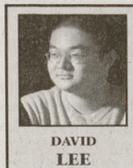
America has no need for a buildup of missiles. The increase of missiles would establish an insecure relationship with Russia, and many other countries could feel threatened. The augmentation of U.S. missiles could be a major error in governmental judgment.

Sunnys Owens is a junior journalism major.



TAMARA CUELLAR/THE BATTALION

Government stock scandal calls for F. Lee Bailey's disbarment



DAVID LEE

lose his license to practice law because he stole millions of dollars in stock from the federal government. To make matters worse, Bailey has been accused of lying about it under oath.

Which would a reasonable person believe — the word of a morally questionable defense lawyer or that of the federal government? It does not take Judge Judy to figure out that, in all likelihood, Bailey is throwing up garbage for defense.

This mess is yet another example of how some lawyers go overboard in milking the cash cow. Obviously, Bailey's alleged actions give the public more reason to resent those in the legal profession, and the sooner he is disbarred, the better.

At issue are 602,000 shares of Biochem Pharma, Inc., a Canadian pharmaceutical firm. Originally owned by narcotics kingpin Claude Duboc, the shares had to be given up when he was convicted on federal drug charges in 1994. In exchange for a plea bargain arranged by Bailey, Duboc agreed to give up over \$100 million in securities,

real estate and other assets amassed through illegal drug trafficking.

Two weeks before Duboc was set to plead guilty, however, he mysteriously transferred the stock over to Bailey. Under the terms of the plea bargain, the federal government claimed that the "stock and any proceeds derived therefrom were the property of the United States." Bailey's only role was to manage and prepare the property for turnover to the government — a role that Bailey supposedly understood. Federal prosecutor David McGee confirmed Bailey was aware of the federal government's intentions before Duboc's guilty plea was set to take place.

Obviously, Bailey's version of the story was completely different. He claimed the \$6 million value of the stock as reimbursement for represent-

ing Duboc. He further attested that he was unaware of the government's initial court order that froze all of Duboc's assets. When questioned about it under oath in 1996, Bailey claimed the federal government had approved his activities.

Agreeing with the prosecution, Federal District Judge Maurice Paul threatened to place Bailey in contempt of court unless he turned over the stock and its proceeds immediately. The stock's worth had skyrocketed to a staggering \$24 million in the span of two years — quadruple the initial amount. Bailey did not comply with the judge's mandate and was subsequently put in jail for 43 days.

Federal prosecutors finally agreed to Bailey's release after drawing up a loophole-proof repayment contract. Under the contract, Bailey will give the government \$700,000 within a year and gradually turn over all significant income until the balance was paid off.

"Frankly, we do not trust Mr. Bailey," Assistant U.S. Attorney David McGee told Judge Paul. "It has required us to construct a financial noose through which we think he could not slip."

It is a no-brainer — Bailey pocketed drug money meant for the government and lied about it to save himself. Ultimately, he turned his back on the virtues he swore to uphold when he became a lawyer. In any other profession, despicable actions along these lines would warrant serious action. Accordingly, disbarment is a justifiable action.

David Lee is a senior economics and journalism major.

Rocker, Knight stories lightfully covered by SI

In his rant, Passwaters insists that sports fans do not read SI for opinions, but only for scores and pictures. I have to question that belief because I have always found opinions expressed in SI to be much more interesting. Passwaters then expressed that the John Rocker and Bobby Knight issues are unimportant and old.

Knight is one of the most well known college basketball coaches, and has long been known as a madman on and off the court. No one was surprised to hear the accusations that Knight choked a player. Many people thought Indiana would finally

fire him after years of childish outbursts. When the university let him off with a small suspension people became outraged. The Sports Illustrated cover "Indiana caves, Bob Knight stays" simply expresses the disbelief that many people feel.

Rocker used his celebrity status to speak out about many touchy subjects, which is wrong to do, on or off the record. Rocker's reputation at ballparks across the nation had been reasonable and he was very lucky to still have a job. However, when Rocker went off on the reporter who wrote the original article it showed that he has not learned his lesson, keep his mouth shut. Both men are sports figures and their actions are definitely within Sports Illustrated's scope. SI will continue to cover the soap opera that Knight and Rocker produce with their words and measures. I suggest if Passwaters is tired of hearing about these

two topics he should either quit writing about them or stop reading any news source such as SI or even Time.

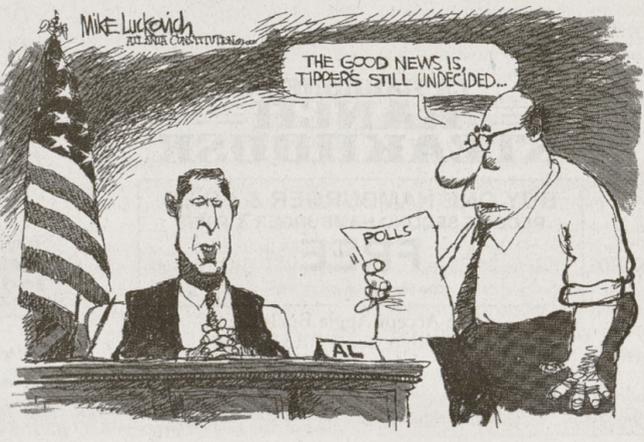
John Purcell
Class of '00

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class and phone number.

The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 014 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to:

The Battalion - Mail Call
013 Reed McDonald
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX
77843-1111

Campus Mail: 1111
Fax: (409) 845-2647
E-mail: battletters@hotmail.com



what we're saying. I certainly support [the resolution] and will support it forward."

Richard Carlson, professor of psychology, said that the resolution is "trying to cast the net so it shows all sides of the issue."

In a mock vote to show support for the resolution, the senators voted in favor of the resolution, and five voted against it.