

President Reagan apparently believes that the prerequisite of peace is U.S. military superiority over any potential "enemy", particularly the Soviet Union. Repeatedly, he has expressed faith in deterrence, and has sought to strengthen U.S. armed forces across the board, even at the expense of generating an enormous budget deficit. He's displayed little understanding of the dangers of encouraging "launch on warning" strategies, and despite substantial opposition in Europe and the U.S., energetically pushed the installation in Europe of Pershing II and cruise missiles. While he's stated interest in arms control, his actions, such as the appointment of Kenneth Edelman as a chief arms control negotiator, suggest indifference. His arms control proposals, such as that for a "build down" in nuclear arsenals, would leave intact U.S. superiority in accurate warheads, the element that counts the most. His current statements that he wants to resume arms control negotiations with the Russians don't conflict with his policy of maintaining U.S. military superiority. Now that the U.S. has regained clear-cut nuclear superiority, negotiations can proceed from a position of U.S. strength, need not result in any decrease in U.S. military power relative to the Soviet Union, and would enhance Reagan's image as a peaceminded candidate. The invasion of Grenada, increased U.S. military aid to the government of El Salvador, continued U.S. military support to anti-communist forces in other parts of Central America, and the sending of U.S. Marines and warships to Lebanon, show that Reagan believes in the active use of U.S. military power, as well as across-the-board U.S. military superiority. A continued Reagan Presidency can be predicted to mean continued U.S. involvement in "conventional" wars, a continued possibility that these conventional conflicts could escalate into nuclear war, an increasing probability of "accidental" or "unauthorized" nuclear war, and the economic disaster generated eventually by an astronomical federal deficit.

Ending the nuclear arms race is central to Alan Cranston's campaign. He favors the freeze, Salt II, mutual, verified arms reduction agreements, and initiatives to stop the testing and deployment of nuclear weapons. He opposes Star Wars weapons systems, and military solutions to conflicts in Central America. He explicitly states that he's not a pacifist, and doesn't believe in unilateral disarmament. One wonders what he would do if

he were forced to choose between continuing deterrence, or trying to stop the arms race by undertaking a unilateral disarmament initiative.

In documents distributed by his campaign headquarters, John Glenn states that he supports ratification of Salt II, endorses the Kennedy-Hatfield nuclear freeze resolution, favors reductions in nuclear weapons, opposes the installation of cruise missiles in Europe (but favors their installation on bombers, where, he claims, their presence can be verified), strongly supports anti-nuclear proliferation agreements, and would pursue agreements for reducing conventional forces in Europe. On the other hand, he believes that "we had indelibly printed on our minds the lessons taught by Hitler and Munich, that military preparedness is truly the price of survival, that appeasement and weakness can bring on the very conflict we all would avoid", and therefore supports "a nuclear deterrent so secure that no Soviet leader, even in his most irrational moment, could expect to enhance his country's position by attacking the United States." Glenn believes that national security, "like the Roman god Janus, has two faces. We must provide weapons to deter aggression, yet we must, with equal vigilance, see that these weapons are never unleashed." These views suggest that while a Glenn administration might have a vigorous overture of detente, in the face of Soviet coolness it could quickly retreat into concentration on U.S. military supremacy. While Glenn compares nuclear arsenals to "a ticking time bomb", he doesn't seem to realize that the only rational way to deal with a time bomb is to deactivate it at once.

An "issues" flier from Jesse Jackson's campaign headquarters states that he supports a bilateral, verifiable arms freeze and "reduction in the arms race", and the negotiation of meaningful arms agreements with the Soviet Union, and opposes "first-strike weapons such as the MX and Euromissiles", and renewing chemical weapons production. The statement says also that he "Supports a strong and adequate national defense, and an end to the massive waste, fraud, abuse and other unnecessary costs of the military. Military resources alone will not supply peace." A December issue of U.S. News and World Report quoted him to this effect, "If I were President, one of my first concerns would be to launch an unprecedented, aggressive campaign to put a halt to the nuclear arms race, and establish a speedy but ration-