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BILATERAL PHASE-OUT OF MIRVed MISSILES
FAVORED BY AAAS PACIFIC DIVISION

MISSOULA--

The Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has unanimously passed a resolution endorsing negotiations for the bilateral phase-out of MIRVed Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) by the United States and the Soviet Union.

MIRV is the designation for the Multiple Warhead Minuteman III ICBMs, 50 of which are located in Montana.

The AAAS Pacific Division passed the resolution Monday, June 14, at the University of Montana in Missoula during the division's 57th Annual Meeting, which continues through Thursday, June 17, at UM.

A portion of the AAAS Pacific Division's resolution was originally adopted by the National AAAS Council at the council's meeting Feb. 21 in Boston, Mass.

Included in the AAAS Pacific Division's resolution is a four-step recommendation made in the February resolution by the National AAAS Council, urging the U.S., through negotiations, to reach an agreement with the Soviet Union to:

- Decrease, rather than increase, the force levels presently envisaged by the Vladivostok Agreements.
- Halt efforts to increase missile accuracy and multiple warhead deployment.
- Stop work on methods aimed at destruction of missile-carrying submarines.
- Move toward a phased and mutual reduction of nuclear weapons levels that will ultimately lead to a renunciation of their use in warfare.

Commenting on the reasoning behind the AAAS resolutions, Dr. Arnold J. Silverman, professor of geology at UM, who was one of the scientists who cosponsored the National AAAS Council's and AAAS Pacific Division's resolutions, said, "The AAAS has taken these public stands out of a deep scientific concern about the change in direction of American and Soviet strategic nuclear weapons strategy.

"Current U.S. policy appears to be focused on the destabilization of deterrent nuclear forces. This policy will lead to an ever-increasing likelihood that the U.S. will engage in a 'first-strike' use of nuclear weapons in the future," Silverman said.

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