

THE ARMS CONTROL DEBATE

For nearly forty years, the world has lived with nuclear weapons and with the fear of nuclear holocaust. For most of those years, the debates about deterrent strategy and arms control occurred within the narrow confines of academia and government, and the average Westerner chose not to think about nuclear war, secure in the belief that such an event could never happen. Recently, however, this has changed as citizens have begun to question the judgement of their leaders and to call for an end to the "insanity of the arms race."

Despite this growing public awareness, the majority of people remain divided about how best to end or slow down the arms race and to lessen the dangers of nuclear war. The arms control community, for that matter, is deeply divided over this question. The arms control debate, both inside and outside of government, has become polarized, with leading public officials and arms control experts unable to generate any kind of consensus for an arms control policy.

In the following interviews, two of the leading figures in this arms control debate, Eugene Rostow and Paul Warnke — both former heads of the Arms Controls and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) — give their views on this important and controversial issue.