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RB 150

Continued from p. 371

Massive fire control plans are misguided. I don't want a fire to be put out just in time for me to feel my burns till I die of infections days later. I'd rather be part of that soot in the troposphere....

Strategic arsenals (perhaps that should be spelled "arsonals") can be defended effectively by simply maintaining enough targets that can't be destroyed (or are too important to risk not being destroyed) non-nuclearly. I call this simple-minded basing mode "Dunce Pack."

The holofrost predictions, if they hold up under introduction of new considerations, will have made me less concerned about the term "full-scale" and more attentive to the word "limited."

Steve Seaquist
Temple Hills, Md.

After reading "Beyond Armageddon," I developed a plan to save countless millions of dollars on national defense.

Bury atomic bombs, in bomb-proof shelters of course, under critical military bases. The bombs are set to explode if an above-ground atomic explosion happens. The initial above-ground explosion caused by enemy missiles would completely destroy the landscape so the buried bomb would really do no further damage when it went off. It would, however, raise lots of dust. The dust would, as pointed out in the article, possibly kill the planet.

I admit the scheme lacks the grandeur of revenge in that the enemy doesn't die right then, but they do die in a few months. The delivery system, the atmosphere, is free, foolproof, and unblockable....

George Trepal
Barton, Fla.

The TTAPS study revives the MAD (mutually assured destruction) argument against the strategic use of nuclear weapons. Logically and morally, the implications of the study demand that the United States abandon any first-strike policy regarding the use of nuclear weapons, reduce the size and numbers of existing weapons, and seek to convince the Soviets to act in a similar direction....

No modern nation can survive the Ambio effect. It is unnecessary to design sophisticated guidance systems or expensive missile delivery systems, to strengthen missile silos or build anti-ballistic missile defenses for the doomsday machine to work. The bombs can be detonated anywhere, perhaps at missile sites or remote desert locations. The whole project could probably be put together for less than the cost of one nuclear submarine and there can be no defense against the system. With such a system, MAD could become a unilateral defense strategy.

Of course, given the extent of nuclear proliferation and the modest cost, it probably will not be long before a number of countries have the ultimate doomsday device. We can postpone doomsday, but, in the long run, we are forced to become wiser as a species if we are to survive.

James Gant
San Diego, Calif.

Ed.'s note:

The numbers assigned to points on the graph accompanying "Bypass surgery not always necessary" (SN: 11/5/83, p. 294) are the number of living participants in the Coronary Artery Surgery Study as of April 15, 1983. Since additional people were added each year to the multi-year study, these numbers cannot be used alone to calculate percent survival.

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By Christopher P. Jargocki



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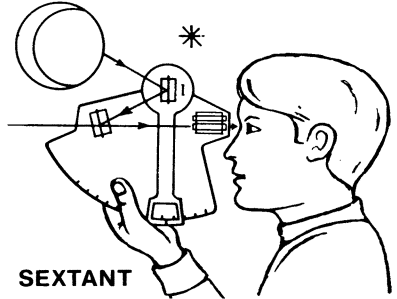
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