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### The Soviet View of Disarmament

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Vigor, P.H. *The Soviet View of Disarmament*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1986. 189pp. \$25

With what appears to be new arms control initiatives coming from Gorbachev's Kremlin, it would seem that this book is just what the public needs for a better understanding of this important facet of Soviet-American relations. Unfortunately, because of the time lag in the availability of documents relating to arms control proposals and agreements, Vigor's analysis terminates with 1980, leaving the question of how applicable this volume is to more recent Soviet leadership. Nonetheless, it is an important compilation of past Soviet behavior in the conduct of arms negotiations. If his analysis is correct, it should serve as a general guide to the Soviet view of disarmament despite differences in leadership style.

The value of this book is in its occasional references to Soviet considerations that are often overlooked by the West. While the book is intended to depict a Soviet view, only brief mention is made of Soviet concerns with China, unrest in Eastern Europe, and nationalism within the non-Russian Soviet Union itself, all of which must certainly play important roles in the Soviet perception of just what constitutes national defense.

A final section on the Soviet attitude toward control provides a good discussion of the problems inherent in verification schemes, given the differences in the U.S. and Soviet political systems. Vigor's command of the Russian language enables him to explain in detail the

differences in interpretation of even seemingly simple concepts like the English 'control,' and Russian 'kontrol,' which continue to be translated incorrectly in verification proposals and agreements. Small wonder that verification remains one of the biggest stumbling blocks in the negotiation process.

The methodology used in the *Soviet View of Disarmament* is scholarly and sound and, while there are no surprise conclusions, it does serve as a thoughtful recap of virtually all arms control proposals put forth by the Soviet Union from the period 1917 to 1980. Its worth lies in understanding and evaluating current and future Soviet arms control proposals.

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Burrows, William F. *Deep Black*.  
New York: Random House, 1986.  
401pp. \$19.95

Taking his title from the deep black of space and the deep black character of U.S. intelligence and reconnaissance satellite programs, Burrows turns the bright light of an experienced aerospace reporter onto the subject. His book has three themes: a history of reconnaissance satellite and aircraft development, an analysis of the vital role played by these systems in national security and arms control verification, and revelation of all the details he can find of code words and system performance. The first is interesting, the second laudable, but the third is of question-