

reliability by being replaced by a new generation of road-mobile missiles which can be hidden virtually anywhere in the vast Soviet Union. The only target for all of this new hardware for mass destruction is the United States.

Well, anyway we still have mutual assured destruction, MAD. At least we still have that part of it which our politicians have not yet negotiated away to appease their new friends in Moscow. MAD, the threat that we will try to kill the Soviet people if their masters kill us, works, we are told, because the stable and sensible Soviet Empire would never risk destruction by an attack upon the United States.

That's the other way things have improved. The Soviet Empire is now breaking up and has become an unstable collection of splinter countries.

These splinter countries - armed with nuclear weapons pointed at the United States - include, for example, fundamentalist Arab states in the southern part of the Soviet Union.

That's O.K., mankind has changed. We are asked to perceive that no honorable country would blow up the civilian infrastructure of another country with today's fearsome modern weapons unless it has United Nations approval.

For 40 years nearly all important United Nations votes have been opposite to the stated positions of the United States government. Now we are asked to perceive that United Nations resolutions can be used as a license to kill and that they are of greater importance than the Constitutional authority of the United States Congress.

The reality is that the world is a dangerous place full of nuclear, chemical, and biological risks along with the dangers of natural disasters. The reality is that the best preparation against these risks is a first-class civil defense system. The reality is that governments representing 28% of the world population have provided civil defense for their people, but that the United States is not in that 28%.

The perceptions are phantoms of the television sets.

Realities can kill.

FUEL AIR EXPLOSIVES

During the recent Middle Eastern fighting, the United States utilized fuel air explosives. These devices were also used in Vietnam. The Soviet Union also has these explosives, and it is now reported that they are beginning to migrate into the less developed countries. There is, for example, speculation that Iraq has them.

These special weapons will pose an unusual threat to Americans if they do in fact begin to be widely available. Lack of publicity about them during the past 20 years has been, in part, a deliberate effort to diminish the rate at which this technology spreads.

When a combustible substance is vaporized at normal temperatures, its ignition can lead to an explosion called a "conflagration". This happens, for example, when methane or butane used in home heating leaks into a home and is ignited by a spark or flame.