contemplated under disarmament treaty proposals. These are aimed at reducing the warmaking capabilities of nations, not at regulating privately owned sporting firearms in the hands of individual citizens.

13. Is it not futile to try to negotiate a disarmament treaty with the Communists when they cannot be trusted?

Answer: The executive branch does not believe that Soviet failure to live up to particular agreements in the past is a reason to abandon efforts to reach agreement. Such a course would afford no opportunity to deal with a matter extremely vital to our security—the ever-expanding nuclear arms race and the international instabilities created by it. Moreover, as pointed out in the answer to the next question, there are reasons why the Soviet Union may wish to adhere to a general disarmament treaty.

In any event, the executive branch disarmament proposals do not contemplate taking the Communists on trust. As Adm. Arthur W. Radford, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stated in testimony before the Disarmament Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, "It is our feeling * * * that the element of trust would be eliminated by a proper control system." That is why the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency has worked so diligently on disarmament proposals that would be safeguarded by provisions that would permit the United States to verify that the Soviet Union and other countries are living up to any agreement which might be reached. Under present world conditions, we believe such an organized effort to find some peaceful way to bring the armaments of the world under control is essential in the interest of our national security.

14. Why would the Communists agree to disarm when their objective is world domination?

Answer: Although the Communists have never rejected their avowed objective of world domination, their efforts to attain this objective could well involve means they may consider preferable to war. No country wants to be devastated by a nuclear holocaust; even the side that "wins" in such a war would have an empty victory. Moreover, considering the military might of the United States, the prospect of a general war should not be a very attractive one to the Communists. Dedicated Communists exhibit a fanatical belief in the ultimate success of the Communist ideology and may well believe their objectives can better be accomplished through political, economic, and social means in the absence of arms. Under our system, we will be able to compete successfully with the Communists in these fields and victory would not be won at the cost of worldwide devastation.

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