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## No cutbacks in defense just yet



WASHINGTON (AP) — Administration officials said Sunday there will be no short-run savings in defense costs from President Bush's dramatic nuclear weapons standdown.

"Over the next few months, or in fiscal year 1992, there are added costs with terminating contracts, moving systems around, destroying warheads, etc., that had not previously been expected," Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney said on ABC's *This Week With David Brinkley*.

Cheney said the nation's military must be ready to fight a regional conflict anywhere in

the world and that the Strategic Defense Initiative is needed in a world of nuclear proliferation.

He defended the B-2 bomber program as necessary to the country's defense and said the armed forces already are in the midst of a massive buildup that will cut their manpower by 25 percent.

The need to prevail in a regional conflict like Operation Desert Storm forms "the basic underlying assumptions by which we size our forces today," Cheney said.

National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft said that "five years out, I think there will be a peace dividend," and "hopeful-

ly it will be" sizable.

But "I honestly don't know how much," said Scowcroft, speaking on NBC's *Meet the Press*.

Defense spending is heading down to 3.6 percent of gross national product, the lowest level since 1939, said Undersecretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz.

"The United States can afford the programs it needs and still afford an adequate defense," Wolfowitz said on CNN's *Newsmaker Sunday*.

The administration got an expression of support from one congressional Democrat, Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"I do think those who believe we're going to be able to declare a peace dividend and have a huge amount of money for domestic purposes are not looking at the fiscal picture of the country," said Nunn.

"Most of the defense savings are going to have to go to try to meet the deficit, which is growing," added Nunn, speaking on CBS's *Face the Nation*.

He also said he doubts the need for 75 B-2 bombers that cost \$850 million a piece.

"The strategic role has been diminished somewhat by the president's speech if we carry through on this action, and I think we have to re-examine the number of B-2s," Nunn said. "I don't think we can afford 75."

But he added that the B-2's conventional role is "if anything, growing more important" because air force bases are closing, the plane carries a tremendous payload and it can fly all over the world with one refueling.

Bush administration officials defended the Soviet response to Bush's initiative.

President Mikhail Gorbachev welcomed the disarmament proposals, but offered no immediate reciprocal cuts.

"It's just as if somebody had hit us with this cold within 24 hours, we would not prepare a substantive response and say, 'OK, we'll take down the following systems,'" Cheney said. "It'll take some time for them to work it. But I think they will."

Cheney also said he doesn't see any call to reduce U.S. strategic nuclear capability below the 50 percent level envisioned in the START treaty.

"As of this moment, we have now stood down almost half of our ballistic missile force, 450 out of the 1,000 ballistic missiles we had deployed ... are now deactivated," said the defense secretary. He said they're on standby status.

Cheney said the accord should be implemented aggressively "before we start talking about reducing it even further."

Scowcroft said the treaty will be sent to the Senate in October.

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# WAR OF THE WORDS



## Freedom of Expression, the University and the Media

### Everette E. Dennis

Executive Director  
The Freedom Forum  
Media Studies Center  
New York

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1991 ♦ EMU BALLROOM, 3:30 P.M.

## 1991 CONVOCATION

Sponsored by the School of Journalism

Following the convocation lecture, members of the university community will join Dennis for a panel discussion on First Amendment issues. The panel will be moderated by journalism dean Arnold Ismach. Other panelists will be

Tim Gleason  
Associate Professor, Journalism

James Klonoski  
Professor, Political Science

Paul Holbo  
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

Lauren Kessler  
Professor, Journalism

Christopher Blair  
Editor, Oregon Daily Emerald

Public Reception, EMU Ballroom, 5:30 p.m.

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