LETTER TO THE EDITOR of the DESERET NEWS 9/12/19

What do you call it when someone threatens to blow up your house? If it’s an individual driving a car bomb it’s called terrorism; if it’s a state brandishing nuclear weapons it’s called deterrence. Of course state-sponsored terrorism is a deterrent, and that’s a benefit. But regarding “How an announcement in Utah signaled that the new nuclear arms race is on” (Deseret News, Aug 29), we need to look at the costs as well:

1) Expense. As Tom Collina put it, “We built (the ground-based missiles) during the Cold War and we’re about to spend $100 billion to rebuild this thing.“

2) Effectiveness. Nuclear weapons were not used in the Korean and Vietnam wars, thankfully; and they do not protect us from airline hijackers, cyber criminals, or other small attacks.

3) Example. If we develop new nuclear weapons other countries will follow our lead.

4) Environment. Nuclear bombing could produce enough smoke to block the sun, and even a week of cold would cause crop failure and mass starvation. There would be severe disruption to basic utilities and all the supports of civilization. How would survivors cope?

5) Extermination. Even if our country won a nuclear conflict, would we want to be responsible for burning, crushing, and radioactively poisoning millions of innocent people and innumerable other living things?

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