

Emphasis

SALT II class ponders the nuclear question

By Maureen Sweeney
Features Editor

Once a week for three hours, a group of twenty-odd students gathers to discuss SALT talks and "the nuclear question." The seminar meets on the second floor of the library—appropriate since the class members spend many of their waking hours scanning the racks their in search of information to help them piece together the puzzle of nuclear negotiations.

Dr. Fred Watts is the professor

for this political science class, the second of its kind to be offered at Elon College. His background is especially suited for a seminar on this subject: he is otherwise known as Colonel Watts (retired) of the United States Air Force.

During the first day of class, Watts discussed what he hoped the students would gain from their studies: "A better understanding of the history of deterrence and arms talks, and the ability to function well in arms talks simulations to be held at the end of the semester."

Watts continued his pep talk with a discussion of the general

public's knowledge about strategic arms limitation talks. "Everybody has an idea, some knowledge of what's behind arms talks, but most of that is very shallow," he said. "By the end of the semester you (his students) will have an understanding equalled by very few in the community."

The students began the class expecting to work long and hard hours in preparation for the final project, a simulation of strategic arms negotiations—and they were not wrong. There are papers due every other week, the topics ranging from U.S./U.S.S.R.

strategies to nuclear freeze to deterrence theories.

If the work is difficult, it is also rewarding. The students in this class will be better able to understand the problems encountered every step of the way by American and Soviet negotiators, Watts predicted.

U. S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko are scheduled to meet in Geneva next month for the latest round of SALT talks. The meeting has been hailed in the press as perhaps a significant thawing in U.S.-Soviet relations, which had been quite chilly dur-

ing the first Reagan administration. World peace seems to be an important concern of the entire class. Many students become frustrated by the discussions of nuclear overkill capacity (overkill is the ability of each world power to destroy the world more than once). Watts noted.

Some of the class members comment on the idiocy of the entire of the entire arms race. One class member said, "the whole game is ultimately stupid but, one we're committed to play. This class will help me understand a little of what's going on this March."



Peacemakers discuss U.S. military tactics

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"Peacemakers is an organization of college and community members actively seeking world peace." These were the words of Rev. Richard McBride, College Chaplain the first evening the group was together.

Members of the group are primarily off campus residents. The group itself is affiliated with the Allied Church of Alamance County. Because of this affiliation, organizers are able to draw

on the many and varied resources of the community for discussion leaders.

Issues discussed cover such topics as, "Alienation from Russia," "Arms Control Negotiations: SALT Without Savor," and "Ministry and the Military."

Participants are urged during each meeting to actively contribute to the discussion. McBride has expressed pleasure at the turn-out which has included faculty, student, and community members alike.

McBride stated the groups objective concisely, "to move away from the verbal assaults of the other countries and to realize that it is possible for two nations to understand each other."

In light of the upcoming arms negotiations (slated to begin this March) "Peacemakers" becomes a potentially important group. It is imperative that citizens of the United States and the Soviet Union realize the vast implications arms negotiations (if properly executed) can hold for each nation.

Current military strategies stress the "winability of a nuclear war." This was stated by Samuel Payne in *The Soviet Union and SALT*. He continued to illustrate a Soviet view on deterrence, "If you wish to deter a nuclear, be prepared to fight it."

Peacemakers meet each Thursday from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the conference room, Alamance 213. The final meeting of the group will be held March 28.

On April 27, a H.E.L.P. Conference will tie together the eight

Peacemakers discussions. HELP stands for, Hunger, Energy, Lifestyle and Peace. The conference will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Elon's Lodge.

The day's featured speaker will be Philadelphian, Ron Sider. Sider's work includes two books, *Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger and Nuclear Holocaust* and *Christian Hope*.

All of the events are offered free of charge to Elon students, faculty and staff.