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## Editor's Note-Symposium: Nuclear Arms and World Public Order

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## SYMPOSIUM

### NUCLEAR ARMS AND WORLD PUBLIC ORDER

#### *Editor's Note*

Recent advances in nuclear technology have led to the development of weapon systems with unparalleled potential for mass destruction. Despite the numerical limitations imposed by past arms control accords, the nuclear powers continue to develop qualitatively more effective tactical and strategic nuclear weapons. In seeking to provide decision-makers with a more flexible array of nuclear policy options short of massive retaliation, military strategists have recently begun to prepare for the possibility of limited nuclear war.

In response to the continuing build-up of nuclear arsenals, disarmament demonstrations have been organized in cities around the world. Amidst the growing concern over the possibility of nuclear confrontation and the devastating consequences of global nuclear conflict, a popular consensus is developing that the arms race must be contained.

On October 22, 1982, the New York Law School International Law Society sponsored a symposium devoted to a discussion of the legal and ethical ramifications of current and alternative nuclear weapons policies. The following issue of the *Journal of International and Comparative Law* is comprised both of papers delivered at the symposium and articles submitted specifically for inclusion in this issue. Through presentation of the divergent viewpoints of arms control negotiators, international lawyers and representatives of the scientific and academic communities, we hope to generate greater awareness and continued discussion of the consequences of, and alternatives to, nuclear conflict.

