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**FOREIGN POLICY & DEFENSE**

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*Bombs at the  
Threshold*

"Enhanced-Radiation Warfare" by Jorma K. Meittinen, in *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, (Sept. 1977), 1020 E. 58th St., Chicago, Ill. 60637.

Congress is currently debating development of a new, more sophisticated weapon, the enhanced-radiation, or "neutron," bomb. The principal difference between this nuclear weapon and others is its capacity to deal a lethal blow to enemy troops while greatly limiting damage to buildings and roads in the area of the blast.

The mechanics of the weapon are straightforward, writes Meittinen, professor of radiochemistry at the University of Helsinki. A nuclear explosion sets off two distinct reactions, fission and fusion. Traditional atomic weapons achieve a predominantly fission effect through blast and release of thermal radiation, which ignites and demolishes ships, tanks, buildings and other physical structures. Humans are killed either directly through intense heat or indirectly by the impact of hurtling objects or collapsing buildings.

Fusion or neutron bombs, on the other hand, release most of their energy in the form of neutron and gamma radiation. A one kiloton explosion, for example, would incapacitate and eventually kill all human life within a half-mile radius; structural damage, however, would be limited to a fraction of this area.

Pentagon proponents of the neutron bomb stress its usefulness against battlefield targets and its operational versatility, especially in Europe. It would provide NATO forces with another option against Soviet attack where nuclear counterblows may have seemed undesirable in the past. Meittinen argues however, that this very versatility makes the neutron bomb's early use more likely, thereby lowering the "nuclear threshold."

Military concerns aside, he notes the slow, agonizing death that would be the fate of many victims of radiation poisoning and warns of the "incalculable consequences" of genetic damage to survivors of a neutron blast.

*Redrawing the Map*

"The Black Man's Burden" by Kenneth L. Adelman, in *Foreign Policy* (Fall 1977), 155 Allen Blvd., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735.

The Carter administration's new Africa policy has been "justified for the wrong reasons and implemented amateurishly," contends Adelman, a former Pentagon official. Moral pronouncements and demands that South Africa grant its black majority full political rights on a "one man, one vote" basis are naive.

Black majority rule in South Africa cannot automatically be equated