Forum Speaker Emphasizes Dangers Of Nuclear Buildup

By KEN DESSAIN

Mr. Mason Willrich, in his Forum speech on Tuesday night, December 11, outlined the dangers of the present arms buildup and summarized the general prospects for disarmament.

“THE NATURE of this paradox lies in the fact that, with our arms buildup, we reach a certain point of maximum retaliatory strength after which no further addition of missiles will increase our counter-attacking force.

“When that point has been reached, the chance of accidental war is maximized.” Mr. Willrich continued, pointing out three major areas in which this maximization occurs.

FIRST, THE chance of nuclear force spreading to smaller, less responsible nations is heightened.

The second danger emphasized was that of “escalation,” or the tendency for small scale conflicts to be enlarged and complicated by the alternative of nuclear weapons. Mr. Willrich explained that the reliance on nuclear weapons “influences the decisions in small conflicts, and presents the constant threat of turning them into full-scale nuclear wars.”

HE ALSO expressed concern over the prospect of nuclear weaponry extending to outer space, commenting that “no sane man would want weapons of mass destruction floating over his head.”

In reviewing the possible ways to avert these and other dangers arising from the arms situation, Mr. Willrich stressed the need for a “more open and cooperative atmosphere for negotiations,” especially in regard to restricting the nuclear club and keeping implements of mass destruction from extending to outer space.

AS FOR checking the danger of escalation, comment was made that “it is Mr. McNamara’s policy to localize conflicts, and to keep the number of alternatives to nuclear force high, means maintaining a strong and ready force of conventional arms.” Also mentioned were the proposals for more direct communication between Kennedy and Khrushchev, in case of impending attack.

Mr. Willrich said that in regard to these proposals and to general disarmament negotiations, “nothing substantive came out of the Geneva Conference of this year, but certain policy goals and negotiation terms between the U.S. and Russia have been agreed on, and we are heading in the right direction.”

“OF COURSE, the problem of inspection is no secret,” he added, “and while the Russians argue, with some validity, that inspection across their country would be a control not only of disarmament, but also of armament, we answer that this is a necessary condition.”

Mr. Willrich concluded that the conference did make significant contributions to world peace, because, “as long as we are here talking it out, the chance of fighting it out is diminished.”