SCONA says a united

By TERRY O’ROURKE, LEE HORSTMAN and KAREN SAGSTETTER

“As the North Atlantic Alliance and the Warsaw Pact weaken, the United States faces new challenges in its relationships with Europe,” said Asst. Secretary of Defense Charles McNaughten, the keynote speaker on Texas A&M’s twelfth Student Conference on National Affairs (SCONA).

Over 160 student representatives from over 60 colleges and universities throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico including three from Rice met last week in Aggieland for a four day session to discuss America’s commitment to Europe.

If 20 Soviet divisions pour into West Germany will Lyndon Johnson really push the button signaling American devastation for a Pyrrhic victory 3000 miles away?

The student representatives debated this problem and many others attempting to understand DeGaulle’s nationalist move for an independent nuclear striking force in France and the West German demand for a share of the finger that pulls the nuclear trigger.

Sec. McNaughten explained that U.S. forces must remain in Europe regardless of the demands of the raging war in Viet Nam.

American ground forces cannot possibly challenge the powerful Soviet army stationed in East Germany, McNaughten explained, but these U.S. men affirm our commitment to the defense of Europe.

Believability

U.S. forces combined with the French, British and West Germany do create the “believability” in the power politics that is necessary to deter aggression, he added.