

The Arms Race between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R

Each country would prefer nuclear superiority. Their second choice would be nuclear parity (equal numbers for each), and their last would be nuclear inferiority.

The two realistic choices for each country were to continue the military build-up aiming for military superiority (or at least parity), or to discontinue the build-up and begin reduction. (continue the military build-up) or to disarm (discontinue build-up, begin reduction).

Two outcomes amount to parity – both arming and both disarming. Since one of those is considerably more expensive than the other, we'll assume they'd rank the cheaper one more highly than they'd rank the expensive one.