

*Unarmed Victory by Bertrand Russell*  
*Spokesman Books, £8.95*

It's 50 years since the world held its breath when John F Kennedy and Nikita Krushchev went head to head and we waited to see who would blink first. The Americans were happy to have nuclear missiles in Britain, Italy and Turkey pointed at the Soviet Union but unhappy when the Russians, in turn, put their tanks (well, R12 medium range ballistic missiles) if not on the White House lawn, at least within range of Washington. Bertrand Russell, the socialist and pacifist philosopher, provided a back channel to Krushchev. This is his account, with his conclusions, of what happened.

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[Tribune Magazine](#)  
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