

BRIEFS ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE AIR FORCE

Secretary of Defense Weinberger says: "... We are well into one of the most dangerous decades in our history, for it will take us at least to 1989 before we can regain the strength we need to deter attacks upon us or our allies, by the Soviet Union armed with missiles, modern and sophisticated additions to their offensive military strength. Our ability to preserve all of the freedom and happiness we have secured for our own people and for many of our allies; our ability to continue to shower upon the world the necessary contributions to material well-being of so many that our system has produced -- indeed the whole future of freedom hangs in the balance. The outcome will depend entirely on the importance and priority we attach to freedom."

At an interfaith meeting on "the nuclear arms race, public policy and moral choice" in San Antonio recently, Maj. Gen. Doyle E. Larson, Commander, Electronic Security Command, said: "In 31 years of service to my country -- both as an enlisted man and as an officer -- I have sought to protect my fellow Americans and the freedoms we enjoy. Throughout these years I have experienced no conflict of conscience whatsoever between my religious beliefs and my duties as a serviceman. On the contrary, I have felt all along that Jesus was speaking directly to me when he said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers' -- for you see I am a peacemaker -- peace is my chosen profession. . . . The peacekeeping job is critical -- it's the keystone upon which all our freedoms rest."

Secretary of the Navy John Lehman said in a speech in Philadelphia last month: "Today we are told by a few religious spokesmen that even possession of nuclear arms by the United States is a grave evil. But all the evil seen in their lifetimes would pale beside the evil that our unilateral disarmament would inevitably produce in this country and throughout the world. We are told that our effort to arm other nations so they might better resist Communist aggression is somehow immoral. I ask, where is the morality in Poland -- in Afghanistan -- in Ethiopia, Cambodia, Vietnam -- in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and inside the Soviet Union? Can we expect morality -- or justice -- or restraint -- from a Godless ideology? No, we cannot. History has proven that. What we can expect is oppression, power and precious little mercy. Those voices calling for unpreparedness and naked trust refer to themselves, naively I believe, as the church of peace. What they are calling for would produce not only war -- but the eventual loss of all freedoms for all mankind -- religious freedom included."

A Gallup Poll taken recently in Europe and the U.S., as reported in the German Information Center newsletter, shows these responses to the choice of: (1) "Better Red Than Dead" or (2) Better To Fight Russian Domination? Red: 12% Great Britain; 13% France; 19% West Germany; 19% Italy; and 6% U.S.A. Fight: 75% Great Britain; 57% France; 74% West Germany; 48% Italy; and 83% U.S.A. As to a favorable opinion of the U.S., the poll showed that 46% of those responding in Great Britain have it; 55% in France; 73% in West Germany; 63% in Italy and 49% in Belgium. (Not all questions were asked in all countries.)

"What new Soviet technology is emerging that concerns you most?," the Armed Forces Journal International asked Richard D. Delauer, Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering. He replied, "Their charged particle effort, that whole area of high energy weapon capabilities." And he added: "To me, the most troublesome development is the SS-20. They're going to have more of them. The SS-20 is just the first two stages of the SS-16. To make the system into ICBMs, all you have to do is put on the SS-16 third stage (it looks like the RV [reentry vehicle]), and the bus will go either side. Now, all of a sudden, we've got a mobile ICBM."

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