

March 10, 1988

Mr. Jack Hitt, Senior Editor
Harper's Magazine
666 Broadway
New York, New York 10012

Dear Mr. Hitt,

I have received your letter of 1 March informing me that Harper's Magazine plans to undertake a re-examination of our Nation's defense strategy. I commend you for your effort, which is of vital importance in view of the changes in the military balance world wide. Furthermore, we are currently focused on a radical reduction in the defense budget of the United States. However, my commendation stops abruptly at this point. I am appalled to note that your prestigious magazine, which has been available to the American people for decades, would involve Gene LaRocque, Rear Admiral, USN, (Ret.) in this important program.

You have gone so far as to set the stage by leading off with an article by LaRocque entitled, "Defending America." LaRocque's article sets forth exactly what the Soviets, through their misinformation program, have been injecting into the media in the United States for some time. Lenin said words to the effect that it was unnecessary for the Communist to publish a paper in the United States because no one would read it. Rather he said we must prevail upon the media in the United States to write what we would write if we had a paper. Harper's Magazine is on the verge of doing just that.

I am enclosing herewith some important documentation in order to explain to you why I am so concerned over the idea of Harper's Magazine publicizing LaRocque's views which continually parrot the communist line. A recent report, entitled "Soviet Active

Mr. Jack Hitt
Page 2

Measures in the United States, 1986-1987" by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, describes the activities of the Center for Defense Information, which is directed by Gene LaRocque. According to this report, while not officially affiliated with the Soviet front organization, Larocque has, on numerous occasions, met with Red Army General Mikhail Milshtyn, a member of Soviet Intelligence. LaRocque frequently repeats the Soviet position and, accompanied by a member of the Soviet embassy, has gone so far as to visit Russia and criticize the United States on the Soviet T.V. networks. This unpatriotic act, as well as others, motivated several hundred retired Admirals to publish a full-page ad in The Washington Times, calling attention to LaRocque's conduct. For your information, LaRocque, while on active duty, was a very junior Rear Admiral for a short while with very little time at sea. He was never assigned a serious command afloat. Neither by performance nor experience is he qualified to write a professional article on national defense strategy. I could not help but note that LaRocque was one of the select few invited to Gorbachev's press conference at the Soviet embassy during his recent visit to Washington.

5 A review of copies of The Defense Monitor, LaRocque's periodical, shows that LaRocque has criticized every weapon under development by the United States and has been particularly critical of the SDI program. LaRocque states his position in Volume XVII, #1. This position is included in his "Defending America" which you propose to use as the base-line for your discussion.


On many occasions I have been invited by both publishing houses and the national T.V. networks to appear on the same program as LaRocque. This, I have refused to do. I do not tolerate individuals who continue to criticize their own country and take an extreme position across the board, while at the same time remain willing to receive retirement pay from our country which they endeavor to weaken, to the advantage of our Number One opponent.

In short, I say to you, leave me out. If you decide to continue this effort along the lines apparently underway at this time,

Mr. Jack Hitt
Page 3

I will not participate. It is my hope that you will undertake a re-examination of our Nation's defense strategy, and will not publish information which proves, without a doubt, that Lenin was right.

Sincerely,


Thomas H. Moorer
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

- Enclosures:
- 1) FBI Report (entered in Congressional Record by Congressman William Young of Florida)
 - 2) Newspaper (this information entered in Congressional Record by Congressman Henry Hyde of Illinois)