

# Brezhnev Warning To Rockefeller: Mutually Assured Destruction

*The following are excerpts from the speech by Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, delivered May 8 in Moscow at the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the victory over fascism. This speech reaffirmed the Soviet commitment to the nuclear strategy of Mutually Assured Destruction against the Schlesinger doctrine.*

...The experience of the war years demonstrated that a difference in social systems is no hindrance to the unification of efforts in the struggle against aggression and for peace and international security. During the years of the war we worked together, and we worked together well, to put an end more quickly to the war. Now we are solving another no less important, and perhaps more complex, task: to pave the way for cooperation aimed at preventing a new worldwide catastrophe.

Nor can we forget that since the end of the Second World War the fires of war have repeatedly blazed in Asia, in Africa, in the Near East, and in Latin America. These wars, which were caused by the unwillingness of certain circles to reconcile themselves to the liberation of peoples, claimed the lives of millions of people. Can this be permitted to continue? No, comrades, it cannot!

For those whom it concerns, it is time to grasp a simple truth: In our time, attempts to suppress the peoples' liberation movements are doomed to failure. And the best proof of that is the glorious victory of the Vietnamese people in the struggle against foreign interventionists and their henchmen.

That victory crowned the years-long heroic struggle of the patriots of Vietnam. It is the result of their skillful use of various forms of struggle -- military, political, and diplomatic. Moreover, that victory is the triumph of the effective and militant solidarity of the countries of socialism. It

also speaks of the great moral and political significance of the sympathy and support on the part of the progressive forces of the entire world....

...We can also note with satisfaction that the elimination of the hotbed of war in Indochina creates the conditions for further improvement of the international atmosphere. This benefits the cause of international detente, including, we assume, detente in the relations between our country and the United States of America.

The struggle for peace continues: It must know neither a breathing space nor pause. Every people has the right to live under conditions of reliable security and lasting peace. This must hold without exception!....

...And, finally, the struggle for putting an end to the arms race, for disarmament, is acquiring ever greater significance for the strengthening of peace.

In spite of the persistent efforts of the Soviet Union and the other socialist states, who have long urged a curtailment of military expenditures and preparations for war, an arms race of unprecedented dimensions goes on in the world.

Yet such a stockpiling of arms, including weapons of mass annihilation, grows increasingly more senseless. The unleashing of a nuclear war would spell the unavoidable annihilation of the aggressor himself, not to mention vast losses for many other countries and peoples, even if they were not formally involved in the war (emphasis added). It is also clear that it is impossible in the long run to combine the development of international detente with a constant increase in the military potential of states and the perfection and stockpiling of arms.

Therefore it is not enough simply to talk about disarmament; it is time to begin concrete agreements about the reduction of the military preparations of states. It is precisely this that the Soviet Union is striving for.