

Back To The Cold War

Increasingly frightened by the imminent collapse of the Dollar Empire as Europe and the Third World move toward debt moratoria, President Ford this week officially dropped "detente" from the Presidential vocabulary and labelled his "new policy" as "peace through strength." In a speech in Miami, Ford announced that he doesn't "use the word detente anymore... Detente is only a word that was coined... I don't think it's applicable anymore."

Only the day before, cabal columnist C.L. Sulzberger had said that the most significant observation that could be made about the 25th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in Moscow was that the USSR had emerged as "the world's strongest military and industrial power."

Then yesterday, NATO Supreme Commander General Alexander Haig told Canadian television interviewers that the West's major task in the coming period is "managing global Soviet power." He went on to ominously warn that events in the Third World could reach a point "where Western power must be applied and must be perceivably applied in order to avert a larger conflict with the Soviets."

These hardline statements from Ford and others and the subsequent red scare stories splashed across the pages of the nation's press this week are an indication that the Atlanticist cabal is once again preparing for confrontation with the Soviet Union over a Third World "hot spot" — the old Rockefeller-Kissinger policy of last year. This shift, to a cold war line which takes U.S. foreign policy back to the days of former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles' nuclear "brinkmanship", is a reflection of the actual policy vacuum which exists in Washington and New York financial circles.

Cuba has been singled out as the immediate target for Cold War propaganda as Atlanticist foreign policy in Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America collapses. Revolutionary ferment erupting in black Africa in the aftermath of the Soviet-backed Popular Movement victory in Angola is unhinging both the State Department and the New York banking community associated with former New York Governor Averell Harriman and former State Department Undersecretary George Ball.

On Feb. 28 Ford branded Cuban Premier Fidel Castro "an international outlaw," while the White House refused to deny reports circulated by Washington columnists Evans and Novak that Ford advisors are discussing a naval blockade of Cuba in retaliation against Cuba's "export of revolution." This sabre-rattling was accompanied by a CIA media revival of an absurd 12 year old story accusing Castro of ordering the assassination of President John F. Kennedy — now embellished with the allegation that Castro was also the perpetrator of the 1968 murder of his brother Robert — in retaliation for CIA plots against the Cuban leader's life.

On March 6, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, fresh from a highly unsatisfactory tour of Latin America appeared before the House International Relations Committee and warned Cuba "to act with circumspection" in southern

Africa or face American wrath. Noting the intervention of Cuban troops in the Angola civil war and the Congressionally-ordered end to U.S. aid to forces opposed to the MPLA, Kissinger blustered: "Our actions cannot always be deduced by what we did in Angola." Without unified backing from his Atlanticist string-pullers, Kissinger announced "We simply cannot be in a position of giving the Cubans an indication of where it is safe for them to go." Hence, he declined to give specific substance to his threats.

Barely twenty-four hours before Kissinger's testimony, the African Bureau of the State Department staged an open revolt against the Secretary, calling an emergency meeting to discuss "Who's losing Africa?" Career foreign service officers were reportedly bitterly opposed to Kissinger's policy of giving unflinching support to minority white regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia, encouraging the outbreak of racial warfare. Instead, careerists reportedly favor a soft-line of trade with Zaire, Zambia, Nigeria and other African nations.

Meanwhile, Atlanticist think tank staffers were wringing their hands in despair with Morris Rothenberg of the University of Miami commenting in a speech to the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies: "Cuba is in Angola and will soon be in Namibia and Rhodesia and there is nothing the U.S. can do about it. There is a total policy vacuum." The Atlanticist-controlled press simultaneously emitted howls of rage and impotence. Writing for the New York Times, Herbert Mathews observed: "For Fidel Castro there is no darkest Africa. It is all ablaze with lights - the campfires of fellow revolutionaries. So long as Castro exists there will be armed Cubans in Africa...standard bearers for the non-aligned countries of the Third World." Baltimore Sun columnist Henry Trewhitt observed yesterday: "The nightmare of U.S. diplomacy in southern Africa is that horrifying war between the races that ends in Marxist domination while Washington, in effect, looks on."

That same day, Ronald Reagan, playing Presidential politics in Florida in a last-minute attempt to shore up his diminishing political prestige before the March 9 primary, lowered the Cold War temperature by accusing his GOP rival Gerald Ford of presiding over the degeneration of the U.S. into a second-rate power. "Despite Mr. Ford's evident decency, honor and patriotism, he has shown neither the vision nor the leadership necessary to halt and reverse the diplomatic and military decline of the U.S.," Reagan charged. Furthermore, the right-wing glamour boy proclaimed, "Kissinger's stewardship of U.S. foreign policy has coincided precisely with the loss of U.S. military supremacy."

He was seconded by an executive committee member of the reactionary American Security Council, General Eldridge Durbow, who told IPS on Wednesday: "We need a god damned Pearl Harbor to wake this country up."