

# Unleashing Dogs of War

By Robert E. Segal

With President Ford and his national security advisors apparently determined to sell six C-130 military transport planes to Egypt and with Daniel P. Moynihan asserting that Cuban brigades are now established on the Golan Heights border region between Israel and Syria, all of us who worry over the survival of Israel are having an uneasy Spring.

Should Egypt actually obtain from Washington the war-making potential now projected, aggressive mischief by Cairo would have to be expected, judging by past history. Too many forget that the Soviet Union did not resupply the Arabs in the 1967 crisis until that conflict was over. Six years later, resupply by Moscow came early and in huge doses. Now, only 2 1/2 years after the Yom Kippur War, President Sadat has accumulated not only best wishes but also abundant military equipment from France and England as well as from the Soviet Union. What more does he need to squeeze Israel to the breaking point? Indeed, he allows himself the luxury of ditching further reliance on the USSR.

Can anything good come of such apprehension? A long shot answer is "Yes." Why? Because if all of the world -- Israel certainly included -- is to be saved from destruction, sanity must be applied to the boundless escalation of weapons before the breaking point.

Talking in this fashion is frowned upon now in the American Jewish community. Those of us who weep over the sanctification of military might in a nuclear age are highly suspect. We

are told to button up our lips, to cease inquiring out loud into the possibility of universal incineration, to raise no questions about the wisdom of Pentagon thinking and Pentagon economics.

If a Senator Proxmire and a Representative Aspin question the validity of CIA estimates on comparative Russian and American dollar costs on defense and we conclude these lawmakers may have a point, we are told not to go public on that because brains superior to the minds of Proxmire and Aspin know better.

If we remind the new superhawks that we sacrificed 46,000 American lives and expended \$175 billion on a fruitless effort to keep the totalitarian regimes of Ky and Thieu and Diem afloat, we are put on the new list of 1976 suspects.

If we detect a measure of cynicism in Henry Kissinger's assertion that "all the free peoples of the world will pay the price" if his critics, including those who "cut away at our defense budget," don't desist, we may be sent into exile. (This may prove the most unbearable burden of all inasmuch as Mr. Kissinger's definition of "free men" may be at the opposite end of the spectrum from ours.)

If we assert that there must be a new effort to topple world military spending of some \$300 billion from its dizzy pinnacle and direct a portion of that outflow to the health and educational and housing needs of peace-loving citizens, we are told we are naive.

Dare we look at the facts again on overkill? Are we free to repeat the truth that for some time now the Soviet Union and the United States have nuclear striking power that measures 15

tons of TNT for every inhabitant of the earth? Have we forgotten that all of the Soviet Union's and America's major cities of 100,000 and over can be reduced to pulp if nuclear warfare bursts open?

Norman Cousins has cried out to a seemingly heedless world: "It is in the nature of the new technology that no nuclear nation can go to war against another nation without going to war against the whole of the human race." Again, few listen.

Yes, further supply of war weapons to Egypt by the U.S. must be energetically opposed. Yes, Israel must be kept secure. And yes, free men must retain the right to assert that today's overarching concern is to close out on overkill and halt our furious race towards planetary destruction.

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