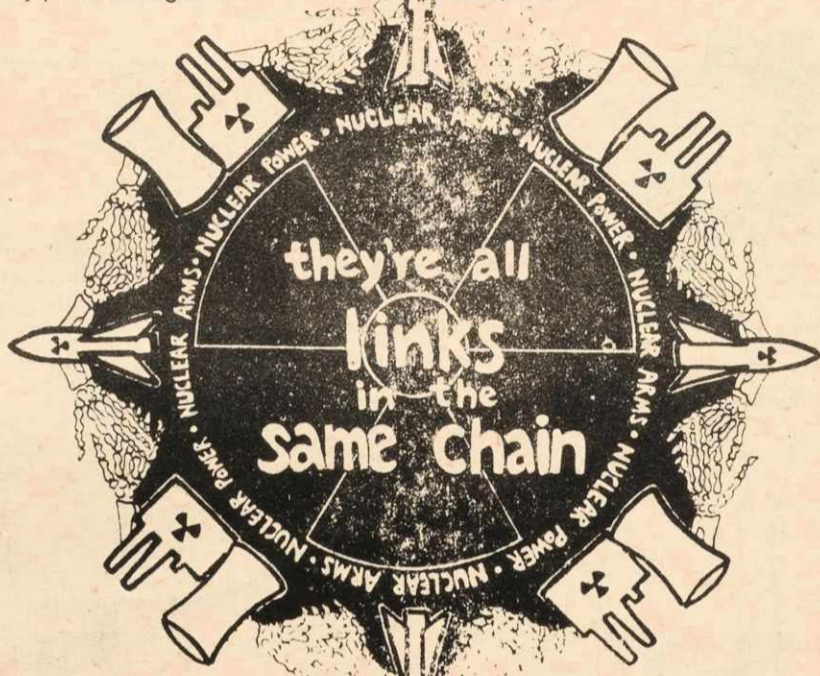


Continued from page 10

Imprint: You say that security must be based on something other than the threat to commit mass murder. What alternatives can you see?

Barnet: Well, I think that the major security is based on the recognized mutual interest in preserving the planet, and that is a view that transcends one's differing views on whether central planning is a good idea, or whether you like Karl Marx, or whether you don't.

It has to do with the understanding that no aggregation of people can survive on the planet except in a continuing and increasingly integrated relationship with the people of the other nations, and there need to be new roles that indicate what people can do and can't do with military power, as a preliminary to what I think should be the goal of the elimination of national military power altogether.



We ought to be talking about a progressive policy of demilitarizing our relations. It is now practical because self-interest, particularly, I would argue, of the large nations, is in demilitarization. I would argue that the smaller the nation, the more short term benefit it may derive from military power, with the greatest benefit in the short run perhaps going to the terrorist organization.

Military power has now and long been a wasting asset. Really military power is useful only as a transitional diplomatic instrument for trying to create a safer world that operates on different rules.

Imprint: Are you concerned about the quality of the candidates in the upcoming Presidential elections in the U.S.?

Barnet: "Concerned" is too mild a term. I'm appalled by the choice. I believe we have a choice between one candidate who knows better and is politically too weak to put actions behind his good intentions, and another candidate who, I'm afraid, doesn't know better, and has surrounded himself with advisors who do not appear to know the difference between the world we live in and the pre-nuclear world. They have a faith in the ability to advance American national interests by military power which has already caused the United States enormous economic and political losses, and I fear, may lead us to more disasters.

Imprint: Finally, Mr. Barnet, in light of the increasingly tense situation we face today, how hopeful are you for the survival of the human species on the planet, and if you are, what is the basis for such a hope?

Barnet: I guess I'm hopeful that human beings have a survival instinct that is strong and that human beings have at critical moments of the past made the adaptations to the next historical moment in order to avoid the extinction of the species.

In part, it's a religious faith that this is possible. I think that it's the worst thing we can do to surrender to a resignation, to a sense of the inevitability of war because that itself is the biggest cause of war. The war will come if it does, not because anybody chooses it but because it was a war that nobody could figure out how to avoid.

What I am most concerned about in our policy toward the Soviet Union is that we not push them into the corner where they sense that the only alternative is war. That has happened, I think, at moments in our relations with the Soviet Union, such as in the early 1950's, when Stalin was still alive.

It would be incredibly dangerous for the West, for the United States, for Canada, for the world, if either the Russian leaders or the American leaders thought they were being backed into a corner from which there was no exit.

Both sides are asking the question, "Why are they doing it; why are they building new weapons on top of the thousands they have already?" That's one reason they are dangerous.

especially the cruise missile. The air-launched cruise missile converts airplanes into launching pads, for a whole series of nuclear weapons. It's non-verifiable. In this room, (The Conrad Grebel Cafeteria), we could put thousands of cruise missiles, and you could not verify it.

We are rapidly moving away from that stage in technological development where verification by satellite is quite accurate; if we go into this next development in technology it will not be. Plus the fact that this new technology is counter-force technology and it increases the old tensions that we talked about before. So I think it's critical to move to the freeze now.

I think that freeze is not enough—it's not the answer in the long run. But as between pious declarations of disarmament accompanied by increases in the military, and something concrete which calls a halt, and sets the stage for a political change which could make real disarmament possible, I know which one I favour.

It is feasible, because the next dangers of the arms race are recognized by all the experts. Unlike twenty years ago when you had experts complacent about the arms race, today there are people in the nuclear field who talk about the inevitability of nuclear war by 1999. They've seen, in their lifetime, the thing get out of control, and that we have alternative but to have an active political will whereby we stop and go down, or to succumb to a thoroughly destructive race.

I believe that there is mounting interest in the United States among churches, among those who are concerned directly about war. There's a fear of war that is developing. It's being picked up in the polls, it's being reflected in the growing interest in the national security issue; so I don't think it's a hopeless position at all.

The idea of a freeze was expressed to me, actually by a Canadian, the disarmament expert at the United Nations, Mr. Epstein, and I think it makes sense. It's verifiable. It's something that's easy to do; it can be done quickly. It doesn't get us into this very technical prolonged negotiation like the SALT negotiation, where the weapons-makers race ahead of the negotiators and by the time the negotiators are ready to sign something, technology has overtaken them.

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