

Ford on the CIA - make it more efficient

by H. MacKinnon

In a television speech to the U.S. a few weeks ago, President Ford announced his plan for "sweeping reorganization" and "reform" of the CIA. This "new" policy, unveiled with all the predictable hoopla, is in reality not "new", "sweeping", or a "reform" at all. It's just another good old-fashioned cover-up.

Ford's plan is to organize a more centralized, more efficient, and more secret "intelligence community". That is the upshot of more than a year of leaks, investigations, and revelations about the international political police of the USA - the CIA.

True, the "exposure" of the CIA helped to clarify its real mission - the promotion and defense of US industries both at home and abroad. But none of the "investigations" in Congress or the press seemed to be concerned with curbing, let alone

stopping, this basic aspect of employing secret armed force. They still believe in a covert police force dedicated to maintaining US interests.

In his speech, Ford hailed the CIA, along with the army, as the "central pillars" of America's world wide power. He saluted "the dedicated men and women of the intelligence community who... carry out missions that advance our interests in the world", and served notice that he will do nothing to alter the essence of the CIA's mission.

When the CIA organized the Chile coup, perpetrated the Phoenix Program that murdered 20,000 Vietnamese, conducted a secret war in Cambodia, installed reactionary governments in Guatemala, Iran, Brazil, South Vietnam and a score of other nations, backed puppet "liberation" movements, in Angola, masterminded the Bay of Pigs



Who's the boss?

invasion of Cuba and assassinated leaders of national liberation movements, it was carrying out the tasks assigned to it by "imperialism", that is, to preserve U.S. domination, control, and interests throughout the world - witness CIA funds going to the Social Credit party in B.C. to aid in the defeat of the NDP. To expect that Ford or even his critics in Congress would alter that assignment would be to expect "imperialism" to promote its own demise.

It appears what the Ford policy will do is to streamline the CIA,

eliminate inter-agency rivalries, and further centralize the power of the CIA. In this regard it is essential to see the political police (the FBI and the CIA) not as an independent policy-making "secret government or an 'agency gone berserk'" but as the executor of the armed action required to defend imperialist rule.

In announcing the CIA 'reorganization' Ford alluded to the essence of his concern-that "excessive disclosures" had compromised the ability of the CIA to function. His solution is to prosecute and imprison any government employee who makes public "government secrets". Ford proposes harsh suppression for anyone who releases a Pentagon Papers, or even speaks the truth to a reporter.

It is important that we, as Canadians, recognize the forces which the U.S. will use to protect their interests. Considering present world conditions, it appears that armed action, both covert and overt, is increasingly necessary to protect the interests of transnational monopoly capitalism. While the U.S. has suffered defeats in Angola and Indochina we have to realize that the CIA and the army are not through subverting foreign governments as well as nationalist and liberation movements throughout the world.

Reviewing the actions of Ford and the CIA, one is reminded of the surprisingly candid remark made in 1959 by the then Secretary of State of the USA, John Foster Dulles, when he said "The United States has no friends, just interests". We would do well to remember that statement.

The brighter side

New world society

by Mahesh K. Raju

A new world society is gradually emerging. It has been growing quietly and steadily over the past decade or so. The tumult and excitement, the anger, violence and confusion seem to point to the birth of something new. People around the world are more than ever revolting against the old order. We, as inheritors of this planet are called upon to work with all the energy and capabilities we possess.

The dawn of the twentieth century coincided with a wave of Nationalist feelings. People were looking for a national identity that would separate them from other existing ideologies and modes of thought. While this level of thought still persists in some parts of the world, an advanced level of universal well being is gradually emerging.

East and West are relative terms. They are geographical expressions and not cultural types. The differences among countries like China, Japan and India are quite as significant as those in European or American countries. These distinct cultural patterns arose from habits and religious beliefs in the different regions in relative isolation from one another.

Ever since the Industrial Revolution, the West has dominated the East. This revolution aided by many new scientific discoveries has created a large gulf not only between the West and the East, but even the present Western civilization and that of its own past.

Recent trends of thought seem to suggest that while the West is scientific in outlook, the East is spiritually minded. The one is said to be rational while the other is held to be religious. This view is quite misleading if one looks back at history. China and India have made fundamental contributions to science and technology till about three hundred years ago, and there have

been illustrious examples of religious wisdom in the West. As the late President of India Dr Radha Krishan puts it, "Science and religion are aspects of every culture. The rational and spiritual are two strands inextricably woven in human nature, though in varied patterns. One or the other may be more prominent in different periods of human history."

Human beings are fundamentally the same and hold the same deep values. The difference among them which are no doubt, significant are related to external, temporary, social conditions and are alterable with them.

In spite of sharp international conflicts, setbacks, and differences, the world is getting to be one. Science knows no borders. Art and culture of other countries are becoming more well known and respected. The isolated existence of societies have given way to mass communication to any part of the world. Thus the physical barriers are rapidly being broken down paving the way for intellectual communication.

Today this is absolutely necessary in view of the development of nuclear weapons of fantastic power. The present stress on the development of more effective intercontinental missiles could very well obliterate any possible aggressor from the face of this earth. The nuclear arms race indicates the possibility of putting an end to the human species in a nuclear war. Whoever may be the strong power, no one will survive a nuclear war. The fate of all nations is therefore inseparably tied up. Either we live together or die together. The ending of human life on earth is a real possibility we all have to reckon with. Faced by such an immense challenge, our differences of race and religion, color or class, nation or ideology become totally irrelevant.

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established in resolutions of the U.N.'s Security Council and General Assembly, which have called for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Cyprus, and the return of the refugees to their homes. Cyprus has now become a test-case for the U.N.'s effectiveness in promoting international peace and security under the principles of its Charter, to which practically every state in the world is a signatory.

Every school-child who has studied modern history, knows that the failure of the League of Nations to counter Italian aggression in Abyssinia, German aggression in the Sudetenland and Japanese aggression in China contributed mightily to the breakdown of international peace and security on a global scale during World War II. Our world today is not so different. If the international community sanctions, by inaction, aggression by the strong against the weak, it will encourage those who covet what is not theirs to act according to the precept 'might is right.'

The consequences for our already fragile 'world-order', if this view were to prevail, I need not elaborate. Cyprus is a small country, but the crime committed against it was neither small nor without broader implications for the world. If we turn a blind-eye to such 'small' acts of aggression, if we try to rationalize or put-off a concerted international response, we are courting disaster on a larger, and of course, less manageable scale.

As individuals, as citizens we are limited in our capacity to influence the behemoth that is our governmental institutions, but that does not absolve anyone from speaking out, and letting the 'mighty' of the earth know that, ultimately, no institution can continue to exist if it (through our leaders) divorces itself from certain principles of justice and fair-play, upon which our civilization must be founded if it is not to perish.

Otherwise, the only peace this world shall ever know will be that of the grave.

Rickett Cont'd from pg. 2

had more real problems with other people--remember the McCarthyism was rampant in the country at the time and it was the good solid citizens who chickened out.

The newspapers, of course, their job is making news and they were the ones who tended to try and cook up the worst kind of sensational stories. They were really unpleasant, the whole business. But that is their job....

The really disappointing thing was the number of essentially good people who didn't come through; and the really good thing was the number of good people who did come through. We found a lot of support at home from people who didn't agree with us but still supported us because we had adopted such an honest position.

Gazette: We understand that you have been back to China since your release from prison. How did it feel to go back?

Rickett: Of course, I went with a

good many misgivings, at least two of them. One stemmed from my own arrogance in thinking that China is my business since I am a professor of Chinese at Pennsylvania University. So I didn't think I was going to get much out of the trip but I still wanted to go--professionally it was important for me to go. My other problem was that I wanted to see old friends but I was really hesitant. I didn't want to embarrass them or myself, or do something stupid, again, in the eyes of the Chinese government. So I was under this kind of tension when I got there. But as it turned out my problems vanished when I got there. Visiting China you see so much and experience so much that you can never get from study alone. The other thing was that when I did meet some old friends, after twenty-five years, we sat down and it was soon like we had hardly been apart at all. Everything turned out just fine.

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The final issue this semester will be coming out April 8. In this issue there will be a special vacation section. All students are invited to submit short articles describing an especially momentful spot that you have visited on your world travels.