

Cooperation or Confrontation?

Rear Admiral Eugene Carroll, jr. (USN-Ret).

(Address on receiving the Tom Perry Peace Achievement Award of Physicians for Global Survival)

In the years I was privileged to know and work with him in the cause of peace and justice, Tom Perry was the kindest, most humane and dedicated gentleman I knew. I say this in spite of the fact that he almost got me in trouble once. More about that in a moment.

His positive optimism and energetic commitment to anti-nuclear activities was all the more remarkable because of the harm he suffered in the United States. The Dies Unamerican Activities Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, abetted by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, literally hounded him because of his anti-nuclear activities in the 1950s. Ultimately, in order to continue his medical career, he emigrated to Canada in 1962. Faced with the necessity to start anew he never lost his dedication to the cause of peace and it was in Vancouver that I came to know and admire Tom Perry.

Following one formal program at University of British Columbia, Tom published his first book *The Prevention of Nuclear War*, which included my formal paper and informal responses to questions from the audience. That is where he got me in trouble. In 1984, in Little Rock, Arkansas, of all places, during a debate on defence issues my adversary quoted from Dr. Perry's book. To the question, "Who is advising President Reagan on nuclear weapons?", part of my reply was that President Reagan's National Security Advisor "knew as much about national security as Miss Piggy". I was chastised for lack of patriotism and disrespect to my betters, even more so because I had been speaking "in a foreign nation"!

After the shock of hearing my scarcely-remembered quote, I managed to respond that my conscience was clear because I had subsequently "apologized to Miss Piggy and she had forgiven me". Judging by the audience reaction, I really wasn't in trouble after all.

Now to turn to – *Confrontation or Cooperation?*

You, as Canadians, know more of events and conditions in the United States – far more I regret to say – than U.S. citizens know about Canada. There are many reasons for this but two stand out. First, as major trading partners, more than 80% of all of your exports go south while slightly less than one quarter of U.S. exports come here. If the U.S. economy sneezes, Canada may contract pneumonia. You are wise to keep a wary eye on us Yanks.

Accute case of national hubris

The second reason is what I want to discuss this evening, one which I believe must be a continuing, irritating problem for Canadians. This is the growing isolation of the United States