
National News

Warnke: no shift in Soviet policy

Paul Warnke, former director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and chief SALT negotiator, said last week that he thought the current crisis in Afghanistan is not as serious as some people in Washington are painting it. "At this stage we are not that close to a confrontation," Warnke told a reporter.

"Our vital interests are not threatened. A switch from a mildly pro-Soviet to a strongly Soviet-controlled regime isn't really that much to take. The risk is that the Soviets may decide to menace a pro-Western government in Pakistan or to dominate Iran or an effort to control the oil lines, but this hasn't really happened."

Warnke said that he did not feel that the massive Soviet military move into Afghanistan in any way marked a shift in Soviet policy: "Afghanistan was a target of opportunity. I am opposed to what they have done just as I was opposed to the U.S. intervention into the Dominican Republic in the early 1960s. I don't think that superpowers ought to intervene like that. But nonetheless, I don't think that it is so different in kind to demonstrate a shift in policy of major nature."

Warnke said he thought that the administration was "doing just right" in its handling of the crisis and criticized some NATO allies for failing to be "resolute behind the U.S.," but he thought that the alliance was "now beginning to pull together in a time of crisis."

Brock wants end to "national unity"

The "national unity" organized around the Iranian crisis officially crumbled Jan. 2 when GOP chairman William Brock called upon the Republican presidential contenders to take the gloves off their criticism of Carter's foreign policy. Brock characterized the administration

policy as one of "verbal protests to the offending countries and too mild supplication before the United Nations." He then declared that Soviet intervention in Afghanistan makes ratification of SALT "unthinkable."

According to Brock's office, his statement was prepared in consultation with Fred Ikle, the author of a recent op-ed in the *Washington Post* calling for the United States to face down the Soviet Union.

Following the announcement by Trilateral Commission member Brock, Senator John Warner, a supporter of George Bush, called upon Carter to end the SALT ratification process. Informed sources among GOP advisers now report that the leading Republican candidates will soon begin an offensive against Carter on foreign policy designed to force Carter into miscalculations and to build the prospect for a Bush-Haig candidacy.

Chicago faces school shutdown

Chicago is facing a walkout Jan. 4 of its 25,000 teachers because the Board of Education has failed to meet its payroll. The Board is running somewhere between a \$300-700 million deficit in its \$1.4 billion budget. Since the bond rating services downgraded its debt from BB to C in November, it has been unable to raise additional short-term cash in the markets.

The most important contributing factor to the crisis is that the city of Chicago has not contributed its share to the board's budget this year because of similar cash problems. When the rating services reduced the city's paper from AA to A last summer, Chicago similarly was restricted in its borrowing capacity. That budget crunch was the major trigger for the transit strike last month, and it is feared that sanitationmen might walk out in the near future.

An attempt to put together a temporary financing package with the state has resulted in an impasse. Mayor Jane

Byrne and State Treasurer Jerome Cosentino proposed that the state buy \$100 million in state aid anticipation notes, while Governor Thompson insisted that the state purchase only \$25 million and the city and banks \$12.5 million each. But the school system needs \$200 million just to get through January.

Cosentino has filed suit against the governor for "infringement upon the Treasurer's investment powers."

The dual school and city financial crises are generating calls for a New York City type of "big MAC" emergency control board to monitor Chicago's budget and enforce austerity measures. There is, understandably, considerable resistance to this proposal, especially in view of the continued deterioration in New York City since the establishment of such a board. On Jan. 6, Rep. Larry Bullock will submit a resolution to the legislature calling for a state investigation of the budget crisis, stipulating that the state provide emergency funds in the interim.

Aspen hails end to progress

Writing in the *Christian Science Monitor* Dec. 27, Aspen Institute Director Harlan Cleveland hailed the results of the 1970s. In the 1970s, Cleveland writes, "we" succeeded in curbing "the mindless march of modern technology." "The old ethic" of "rapid material growth powered by technological innovation, supported by exuberant optimism" has finally been abandoned, he cheered. "A new kind of thinking about 'growth' is now in evidence—a historic change of emphasis"—... Every time the pollsters take our national pulse, they discover a deeper alienation from the idea that more and more is better and better."

Cleveland went on to predict that the 1980s will culminate in the "dawn of planetary politics" that began in the 1970s, the end of the sovereignty of the nation-state. "The recognition of global

risks and the presence of global technologies creates a new kind of politics to which the adjectives international, the traditional fear of 'losing' sovereignty, and win-lose scenarios simply don't apply."

LaRouche challenges GOP and Carter

In statements over the past week, Lyndon LaRouche, the Democratic presidential contender, has challenged both President Carter and all Republican candidates for the presidency to face the real causes and adopt stipulated measures to return American foreign policy to a "condition of sanity."

LaRouche stated that the Soviet coup in Afghanistan, and the related Iran crisis, have resulted from the Carter administration policy of "controlled disintegration" of Western industry—leading the Soviets to believe that "capitalism is undergoing a final break-down crisis"—coupled with a highly provocative "China Card" and "Islamic Card" policy of strategic encirclement of the U.S.S.R.

Both features of the Carter posture are dangerously incompetent, he said. LaRouche hastened to add, however, that while "controlled disintegration" and the "China Card" are immediately associated with the administration's Paul Volcker and Zbigniew Brzezinski, respectively, all Republican candidates endorse—in some cases, in a more extreme form—those very Carter policies precipitating the current strategic crisis for which they now presume to criticize him.

"I am challenging these Republican spokesmen to debate on this subject in New Hampshire, in Illinois, and all other states where I am campaigning," LaRouche declared. Unless the GOP candidates publicly acknowledge the crux of the current strategic crisis to be the destruction of the dollar as the principal world reserve currency, their charges that "Carter lost Iran" and the like are complete fraud.

The dollar's problems, LaRouche pointed out, have been extreme under Carter policy, but actually began when GOP candidate John Connally acted as Treasury Secretary to take the dollar off the gold standard in 1971.

The candidate is preparing a statement for the Democratic National Committee and state and county Democratic Party chairmen, calling for their recognition that he is the party's best spokesman to defend the Democrats against election-year GOP hypocrisy on strategic issues.

New Hansen trip provokes congressional ire

Congressman George Hansen (R-Id.) flew to Iran last week and immediately provoked a storm of outrage from congressional friends of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. Hansen, who last month called for an investigation of the role of the oil companies and New York banking interests in creating the current Iran crisis, was on a personal fact-finding mission.

Rep. Peter Peyser (R-N.Y.) became incensed. Hansen, he told a reporter, was a "national security problem" because of his attacks on administration policy and his "meddling in foreign policy matters." Peyser reported that he called both Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti and the State Department in an effort to have the trip aborted. "Hansen should have his passport lifted," said Peyser, who claimed to have a large number of "friends" over at the State Department.

Several informed observers say that some of Peyser's friends at State called him to get him moving on Hansen; Peyser was pessimistic about the possibility of stopping Hansen's current trip. He will focus on "preventing future problems" and will consider major amendments to the Logan Act, which bars private citizens from interfering with the State Department's conduct of foreign policy. No action was expected until next month.

Briefly

● **REP. JOHN BINGHAM** (D-NY) and **Clement Zablock** (D-Wis) will introduce a measure to extend military aid to Pakistan when Congress reconvenes on Jan. 22. The move follows Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, Pakistan's northern neighbor. Observers point out, however, that India, now holding elections reportedly returning Indira Gandhi to power, may also be a target of the measure.

● **JOSEPH HENDRIE**, Nuclear Regulatory Commission chairman, announced this week that 38 nuclear power plants have not complied with new safety requirements proposed in the agency's report on last year's Three Mile Island "accident." He said that the facilities in question will have one month to comply or face shutdown, which could cause "black-outs" this winter in many parts of the country.

● **IOWA DEMOCRATS** have grown so critical of Jimmy Carter's campaign methods it could cost him the caucus vote there. Carter, spending evenings soliciting support by phone, withdrew from a scheduled public debate there. "I'm disappointed," said a state committeeman. "He can find hours to spend campaigning by telephone, but has no time to come talk about the issues."

● **EDWARD LUTTWAK**, member of the Center for Strategic and International Studies at Georgetown University, says that the United States should arm Afghan rebels with anti-tank weapons and anti-aircraft missiles, since Afghanistan's terrain is different from Vietnam's. Observers were quick to note that the CSIS is also the home think tank of Henry A. Kissinger.