

# National News

---

## U.S.-Soviets near confrontation

In testimony delivered Jan. 29 before the House Armed Services Committee, Air Force General David Jones, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff warned that the United States and the Soviet Union are on a confrontation course. Jones's statement, not covered in most of the major press, read: "The possibilities of a military confrontation with the Soviet Union will increase significantly in the first half of the next decade. ... I do not believe that means a bolt-out-of-the-blue nuclear attack on the United States, but I think it is more likely that they will try to intimidate us—make us blink." General Jones went on to acknowledge that the U.S. could not confront the Soviet Union "successfully" at present or any near future point, given the status of U.S. military forces.

Jones was followed by testimony from Defense Secretary Harold Brown. Many observers were struck by the clear disparity between the two on the confrontation issue. Brown notably, in stark contrast to General Jones representing the professional military, did not declare that there exists a greater danger of a U.S.-Soviet military confrontation.

---

## Carter admits his doctrine is based on bluff

Speaking before a group of out-of-town editors at the White House Jan. 29, President Carter not only upheld his confrontationist "Carter doctrine" but admitted it to be sheer bluff when weighed against military realities.

Carter said, "The United States will be able to protect Western interests in the Persian Gulf." Then, he said, "I don't think it would be accurate for me to claim that at this time or in the future we can expect to have enough military

strength and enough military presence there to defend the region unilaterally."

Carter has been engaged in hasty efforts to form "collective" arrangements with West European NATO allies, Japan, and the Arab oil-producing states of the Persian Gulf region. In the same remarks Carter said, "We are coordinating our efforts with nations which are not located in the region but are heavily dependent, even more than we, on oil from that region," and "are seeking military ties with Persian Gulf states."

It is an open secret, admitted by both State Department officials and White House sources that not one nation among those Carter is targeting for support has endorsed his doctrine, or is providing any military forces or bases for action in the Persian Gulf region. Carter's endeavors have met with universal rebuff. European and other foreign heads of government do not want a "doctrine" whose short-term outcome could be nuclear war.

---

## Trilateral director says war danger is overrated

George Franklin, Executive Director of the Trilateral Commission, thinks that the war danger is "overrated." In a Jan. 31 interview, Franklin said: "Nuclear war is always a possibility and in some cases an option, as unpleasant as that might sound. But the current world situation, as bad as it is, is not quite on the edge of war. Carter was in an awkward position, he had to act decisively to tell the Soviets that he understands how they are playing the game. To get in the game, Carter had to lie and exaggerate about the depth of the crisis. Carter can't mobilize people without telling white lies. ... The real danger are the people who take the war danger seriously, who mouth off about how the world is headed for war without defining the terms of the game. ... The problem is that Carter is a paranoid and sometimes

he doesn't have the nerve to play the game right."

When queried about the refusal of the West Europeans to collaborate with Washington and the warnings from Moscow, Franklin answered: "People who say there could be a split between Europe and the U.S. don't know what they are talking about. The Western alliance is in a lot better shape than it appears. ... And as far as Brezhnev is concerned, that (warning) was just hot air. He knows we aren't going to arm the Chinese that way. Brezhnev must appear tough also—that's the game."

---

## Mondale on nuclear war danger

In a full-page interview granted to the *Christian Science Monitor* Jan. 31, Vice President Mondale was asked the following question: "Some people are expressing anxiety that the President's drawing of a line in the Persian Gulf has to involve the nuclear threat."

"The President drew a hard line there, and in so doing enhanced the possibility that conflict would not ensue. ... the Russians can be under no doubt whatsoever about our intentions there," Mondale replied, "We're moving rapidly to develop an expanded presence in a conventional sense in Southwest Asia, the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf, in Northern Africa, through the rapid deployment forces and the rest. All of this is designed to make our challenge credible and to deter the Russians and to make less likely any threat or use of that kind."

Mondale's dismissing of the nuclear war danger discounts, according to analysts, the grave warnings put forward by the spokesman for the Joint Chiefs before Congress this week. His statements also directly contradict the testimony of the military leadership concerning the absence of any type of adequate U.S. conventional forces for the region.

## Carter plans gas rationing after New Hampshire primary

The Carter administration is working on a gasoline rationing plan, which Carter will not unveil—until after the Feb. 26 New Hampshire primary.

In testimony delivered by Hazel R. Rollins, head of the Economic Regulatory Administration in the Department of Energy, before a Senate Energy subcommittee, testified on the status of the administration's "emergency" gasoline rationing plan in the event of a Mideast oil cutoff, Rollins announced that "President Carter will likely send the draft plan to Congress by the end of February. She announced that the rationing coupons are already in storage in Colorado, and that under the plan 125 million car owners would be identified by computer. The rationing system would entail a two-tier price for gasoline, whereby amounts exceeding the rationed portion could be purchased with such coupons for whatever price the market will bear.

One observer commented, "Perhaps the administration could propose that New Hampshire voters exchange their paper ballots for ration coupons?"

## LaRouche charges CBS, ABC with violating election law

Citizens for LaRouche, the campaign organization of Democrat Lyndon LaRouche, has filed two separate complaints with the Federal Communications Commission charging that CBS-TV and ABC-TV are willfully violating the requirements of election law in denying LaRouche equal access to the voters through the media.

In the CBS case, LaRouche's organi-

zation charges that three "bad offers" of time for purchase as paid political announcements have been made, in one case, five minutes of time on Jan. 22, the day after the Iowa caucuses, and another, half hour of time on Feb. 27, the day after the New Hampshire primary.

ABC-TV, similarly, is attempting to give the appearance of complying with equal-time and fair-access laws, charges CFL, by denying sale of time-slots equivalent to those sold to other candidates. The network sold the Carter campaign organization half an hour of prime time the first week of January, but only sold LaRouche a spot on late Sunday afternoon. This does not fulfill the law's requirements, CFL charges.

Action on the complaint against CBS is expected by Feb. 4, while the ABC case, on an expedited basis, should be decided late next week.

## LaRouche placed on California Democratic Party primary ballot

March Fong Eu, Secretary of State of California, announced her decision to place Lyndon H. LaRouche and three other Democratic hopefuls, President Jimmy Carter, Teddy Kennedy and Jerry Brown, Jr. on the Democratic Party primary ballot in California Jan. 31. Fong Eu explained that California law mandates that an individual who is generally advocated or recognized as seeking their party's nomination either nationally or in California be placed on the ballot without following the onerous petitioning process otherwise specified by California law. Fong Eu noted that in her decision she had used the criteria of qualification for federal matching funds, thereby disqualifying fifteen Democrats who had requested ballot status in California.

Fong Eu also announced the qualification of Republican candidates Anderson, Baker, Bush, Connally, Crane, Dole, and Reagan.

## Briefly

● **CLARK CLIFFORD**, the special presidential envoy, said last week that there would be war if the Soviet Union sent troops into the Persian Gulf. On a mission to Pakistan, Clifford told the press; "We have attempted to get a message to the Soviet Union. The message is: they must know that if part of their plan is to move to the Persian Gulf that means war." Clifford, however, was unclear as to what the U.S. would do if the Soviets made a move on Pakistan, stating only that there would be "grave consequences."

● **GEORGE KENNAN**, the former ambassador to the Soviet Union, questioned last week whether the Carter administration had not in fact miscalculated Soviet intentions in Afghanistan and seriously overreacted. Writing in the *New York Times*, Ambassador Kennan says that "American official reaction has revealed a disquieting lack of balance, both in analysis of the problem and then not surprisingly in the response to it." The U.S. has based its policy on the assumption that the Soviet action was a "prelude to aggressive military moves against various countries and regions farther afield." This extravagant view says the author, the "containment doctrine" of the 1940s and 1950s, "rests ... exclusively on our own assumptions."

● **HENRY KISSINGER** told a seminar audience of scholars and world leaders in West Germany that the power relations between the superpowers are "out of balance." Kissinger, speaking at the seminar which included West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, called for a major effort to "restore the balance of power."