

15 MARCH 1967

PLEDGES AS GOOD AS PLUGGED NICKELS

Gen. James F. Collins, president of the American Red Cross, says that the North Vietnamese Communists have refused to allow Red Cross inspection of prisoner-of-war camps. He said that the Red Cross is convinced that the camps in which American prisoners are held are not complying with the agreements of the Geneva conventions on the treatment of prisoners of war.

This is just another bit of evidence on how Communists honor their most solemn undertakings. Yet at the very moment the United States is displaying a childlike faith that Communists are capable of keeping their word. It is willing to negotiate an end to the war in Viet Nam with the very government which refuses to abide by its pledge of honor the Geneva conventions, and its willingness is unshaken by the knowledge that that same government has violated the separate Geneva agreement of 1954 which was supposed to insure stability and peace in the former French territories of Indo-China.

At the same time the Johnson administration is pressing for a consular treaty which would open various American cities to soviet penetration thru consulates whose personnel would enjoy total diplomatic immunity from any crime. It knows that these Red bases would engage in espionage and subversion, for even Secretary of State Rusk has admitted that there would be "an increased problem of internal security proportionate to the number of soviet consulates actually established."

What none of the proponents mentions is that the principal safeguard the treaty presumably would insure was supposed to have been accomplished as long ago as 1933, when President Franklin Roosevelt granted recognition to the Soviet Union. The principal argument advanced for a consular accord is that American travelers in Russia would gain protection now denied them if they were arrested or detained.

Yet a protocol to the article of recognition in 1933 was designed to achieve this very result. Mr. Roosevelt wrote Maxim Litvinoff, the soviet foreign commissar, who negotiated recognition, that "we shall expect that the nearest American diplomatic or consular officer shall be notified immediately of any arrest or detention of an American national, and that he shall promptly be afforded the opportunity to communicate and converse with such national."

If the Communists had honored this agreement, there would be no necessity to renegotiate it now, but they did not. How much more is any promise from them going to be worth the second time around?

The fact is that our naive leaders in the executive branch and the Senate lack the most elementary understanding of the nature of communism and the methods of soviet diplomacy. In 1956 the Senate internal security subcommittee compiled a list of almost 1,000 treaties and agreements entered by the Soviet Union in the 38 years until then, and its conclusion was that the Soviet Union "had broken its word to virtually every country to which it ever gave a signed promise."

Among these, of course, was the United States. We extended lend-lease to the Soviet Union on the understanding we should have repayment. The Russians welshed on a bill of almost 11 billion dollars. The Tehran and Yalta war-time agreements were idiotic sellouts of United States and allied interests, but they had American defenders, and the only argument of these apologists was that the undertakings were really not bad, but they produced evil effects because the Soviet

ATAM DUET IN GENEVA

The chief disarmament bargainers for the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. are crooning the praises of the pending treaty to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. Our man, William C.



William C. Foster

Foster, has hop-scotched through Western Europe assuring our reluctant allies that the treaty won't interfere with peaceful development of atomic energy.

Now his Soviet counterpart, Alexei Roschin, has chimed in with a chorus of "Da, Da, Da," to Foster's soothing words. Both speak of the pact's promise for the world in extravagant terms.

But the Geneva talks really have produced a mouse after five years of labor. There would be no inspections on Russian soil to see if the Soviets live up to the agree-

ment. It's an arms control pact only in the sense that the nuclear weapons have-nots would be kept in that status.

Or would they? Any who might later develop an itch for atomic weaponry would merely have to go shopping in France or Red China—neither of which is having any part of the Geneva talkathon.

France, Peking On Outside

At best, the pact is an exercise in futility. If Russia had spent a fraction of the energy that has gone into Geneva on convincing the North Vietnamese they should march to the conference table it could have made a real contribution to peace.

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More Latin Aid

The President's intention to offer Latin America an extra \$1.5 billion in aid over five years—an extra 30 per cent—makes good sense diplomatically in the hemisphere and politically in Washington. The offer would confirm American determination to help conscientious Latin neighbors cope with their heavy development burdens. The political context of the offer is particularly shrewd.

The need for more funds is beyond cavil; the real question is whether \$1.5 billion is anywhere near enough, and whether other regions of the world need more too. The Alliance for Progress has given Latin America a larger appetite for growth, and a bigger stomach as well. About three-fifths of the extra aid would go to basic bread-and-butter projects in agriculture, education and health. The President promises to condition requests for actual appropriations on the steps taken by the receiving countries to help themselves; the underlying Alliance rationale of self-help is maintained.

Up to a third of the extra aid is meant to encourage formation of a Latin Common Market. This is a truly revolutionary project of greater potential value than anything the United States has yet put its hand to in Latin America. In the past, national rivalries and habits, and the continent's great distances and geographical barriers, have conspired to turn Latin trade outward, toward countries beyond the seas. Ideally, a Common Market, initially by felling tariff walls between

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Trying to stop an arms race

Here's a refreshing switch.

King Hassan II of Morocco, who came to the United States last month to seek arms aid to counter a Soviet arms buildup in neighboring Algeria, has appealed to the United Nations to intervene to prevent an arms race between the two North African nations.

Presumably, King Hassan did not get what he was asking for in Washington.

Presumably, he was advised there to seek relief from the United Nations, which was established for just such purposes.

Union had failed to live up to them.

With this dismal record, we are willing to stick our head in the noose again. Will Washington ever learn?

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'Silent' Spy?

The Strategic Air Command is considerate indeed in notifying communities as far as 40 miles airline from the flight paths of its supersonic or trisomic photoplane to be ready for possible small barks of sound at certain hours. From a 16-mile height, according to prognostication for the larger supersonic transports, the effects even directly below the path should be piffing compared with the well-defined thundercrack of the sonic boom. There is room for surprise, however, in the way the air sustains the energy or range of the shockwave.

So it will be interesting to hear what such communities as Baton Rouge, and those in the Florida parishes across the lake, some 35 miles north of here, have to report about reports as the slanting, fan-shaped pressure trail of the SR-71 reaches ground progressively from west to east, and signals (or doesn't signal) that the needle-shaped craft has "been and gone." The noontime passages are scheduled to begin within the next two weeks. Passage above a particular point will be some minutes ahead of the arrival of any "shock" sound.

The Lockheed SR-71 has been testing for more than a year its 2,100 miles per hour speed and its photo equipment, etc., as a successor to the famed U-2. The possible detection of the new "superspy" by sound trail probably is of small significance in the overall picture of its in-over-and-out, highspeed missions.

the Latin nations themselves, would stimulate continental trade and development. It could also be a potent political and psychological force for continental cooperation and unity.

By asking Congress to sanction his intention to increase the American aid commitment, the President does two things. He strengthens his diplomatic hand at the meeting of hemisphere presidents at Punta del Este next month. And he strengthens his political hand for the times he will return to Capitol Hill to ask for specific aid authorizations. The prompt and positive congressional reaction to his proposal attests to the care with which Mr. Johnson had paved the way down Pennsylvania Avenue for it, and to the merit of his proposal too.

One African delegate to the U.N., who is unnamed, is reported to have said he considered King Hassan's move would set a dangerous precedent that might allow the United Nations to interfere in the internal affairs of other member states.

Nonsense. King Hassan has taken the only sensible way out of his security dilemma, one which will spare him the needless cost of dangerous arms and which is no threat to his neighbors. Other nations should follow suit. The United Nations should be strengthened to provide them the alternative security which is their right.

To the extent that the United States is responsible for Morocco's civilized proposal, Washington is to be commended.