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THE REAL MEN OF THE DECADE

Even as communism crumbles in Eastern Europe, Americans who incurred the hatred of the liberal establishment because of their determined efforts to resist the spread of that evil system at home and abroad are being denied the honor they are due. Worse, some of them are still being viciously attacked. In *Time* magazine's January 1 issue, which honors Mikhail Gorbachev as the "man of the decade," editor-at-large Strobe Talbott declared that "the Soviet threat isn't what it used to be." He added, "The real point, however, is that it never was. The doves in the Great Debate of the past 40 years were right all along."

Oh? These doves perhaps?

- **Jane Fonda**, who in 1970 told the students at Michigan State University, "I would think that if you understood what communism was, you would hope, you would pray on your knees, that we would someday become communists."

- **Walter Cronkite**, who was quoted in the *Moscow Literary Gazette* of May 1979, 7 months before the invasion of Afghanistan, as saying that "an honest person cannot believe that (the USSR is preparing for war, that it might attack someone)."

- **Sydney Schanberg**, the *New York Times* correspondent in Cambodia in 1975, who four days before the Pol Pot communists captured Phnom Penh and began their bloodbath that resulted in the death of a quarter of the population of Cambodia wrote: "But these concepts (of freedom) mean nothing to the ordinary people of Indochina, and it is difficult to imagine how their lives could be anything but better with the Americans gone."

- **John Kenneth Galbraith**, the dovish Harvard economist, who in an article in *The New Yorker* magazine in 1984 toasted the "great material progress" of the Soviet Union. He explained it this way: "Partly, the Russian system succeeds because, in contrast with the Western industrial economies, it makes full use of its manpower."

- **Bernard Goldberg**, CBS correspondent, in a 1986 broadcast from Moscow: "As incredible as it may sound, Soviets not only think they're free, they think they're freer than we are."

These and similar views are typical of the thinking of those who took a benign or even adulatory view of communism and the Soviet Union in the years since the 1917 Bolshevik coup d'etat. As the new candor inside the Soviet Union and the new revolutions in Eastern Europe expose the true inhuman face of communism for all to see, it is galling to see *Time* declare that the holders of these views are now being vindicated. What will we see next? A movement for the canonization of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg?

Honoring the Dissidents

A few days after *Time*'s glorification of Gorbachev and the doves appeared on the newsstands, A.M. Rosenthal used his column in *The New York Times* to deliver a strong demurrer. Gorbachev, he noted, still insists that he is a "convinced communist" and that communism is his main goal. Rosenthal said that the revolution sweeping Eastern Europe is not being fought for the abolition of communism, not for its reform. He argued that *Time*'s "man of the decade," Gorbachev, could not have won this honor if the truth about Soviet communism had not been told by the dissidents, year after year. He concluded that the dissidents who fought communism while Gorbachev tried to build it "are the real 'men of the decade.'"

They include not only such giants of the anti-communist cause as Solzhenitsyn, but also the thousands of political prisoners, many of whom are still in prison in the Soviet Union, Cuba and China. They also include the anti-communists in the Free World who successfully fought to keep their own countries free and who tried, not always successfully, to block the communist efforts to enslave Eastern Europe and countries such as China, Korea, South Africa, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Nicaragua and El Salvador. Some of these "dissidents" even dared to dream of liberation of the communist world.

The anti-communists represented the thinking of the vast majority of the American people, but they were an