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THE WORLD

NUCLEAR FREEZE

1961 was an exciting year for disarmament. J.F.K. was preparing for his first Summit meeting and every one was feverishly working on some kind of formula that would lead the world away from the brink of all-out war. The subject of disarmament, planning my M.A. (and later my Ph.D.) thesis on it. But being also a realist, with a good dose of black humor, I was convinced that no formula would be acceptable to most reasonable people. A formula that would provide protection from a nuclear holocaust would win no votes or support, or views of the human race. Therefore, instead of complete disarmament I proposed a nuclear freeze and called it "interlock". The idea was to freeze all nuclear weapons production and to work out an existing weapons in such a manner that it would be suicidal for any country to use them. My proposal was first mailed out to opinion leaders such as Adlai Stevenson at the U.N. and Sorensen, J.F.K. speech writer, at the White House. On Nov. 28, 1963 an outline of the proposal was published in the International, New York Times, and in 1971 it was published in TOMORROW OUTLINE JOURNAL under the title "Planning the World Community". Unfortunately there was little support from the liberal elements, most of whom were holding out for complete disarmament and, or, World Government. We ended up with a joke called SALT. It is too late now but it will be much more difficult to achieve agreement. Russia has caught up with us and many other countries have nuclear potentials, but it is worth a try. Nevertheless, the Freeze Movement must still come to grips with the old argument of "control". As in years past my idealistic, liberal colleagues tend to come up with great ideas but few practical proposals on how to implement them. The Freeze Movement has great potential, it certainly has come a long way from the chimerical "Total and Complete Disarma ment NOW!" But the freeze movement will waste its energies if it does not also provide acceptable alternatives for the problems, aspirations and fears of the many people and countries that make up our world. All wars, any war, are not an end in themselves but the means to an end. Perhaps it is time for me to pull "interlock" down from the shelves and update it as an idea whose time has come.

U.S.A.

REAGANOMICS

ATTENTION, this is a scenario and only a scenario, any resemblance to existing facts, personalities or person is purely DELIBERATE. Reagan's supporters don't want to put their money where their mouth is. This is the first administration in many a decades that manages to make the stock market crash, every time one of his Legislatives passes the floor. Is it lack of confidence in the idol they have elected? You bet it is. But it is more than that. Since Reagan was elected I have watched the stock market rise a bit just to plunge right back again after listening to the wisdom of some White House mouthpiece. I wondered for awhile how was it so stupid, but it is realized they were more to it than stupidity as a pattern began to emerge. Over the past couple of years mergers among the leading corporations have multiplied and some are weaker firms are being gobbled up by the stronger ones. It is actually a war at the top between the Giants and the Titans. At the lower levels of the economy the mergers are a bankruptcy is more the order of the day. It is a clear survival of the fittest situation. A war that, given the range of control of these Titans, could spread to the international arena as soon as they have digested their American loot and consolidated their positions at home. And once the international fight is over, if every thing is as the plans, there will emerge an oligarchy of corporate leaders ready to rule the world. And Communism? For the moment that is only a diversion. Something to keep the military at bay, and in training, for things to come. The Military-industrial complex alliance is bound to be temporary. Both aspire to complete control but for different reasons. The military wants to be the number one in the world. Power and glory is their goal and Communism is their challenge and enemy at the present time. Only POWER and DOMINANCE have meaning in the corporate world. A power they don't intend to share with anyone. Glory bound military. Once the corporate Titans have consolidated their power in the capitalist world they will, if necessary, unleash the military to subdue the Third World and other sources of raw material and markets. For this purpose they are in full agreement with the scenario of the militaries of the need for an Orwellian type society and superior military strength. Should there be any resistance from the communist block they will, of course, take appropriate actions, but their first priority will be to do business with the communist world. After all they are engaged in ideological struggle, ideology has nothing to do with it, only market control matters as they have no objections to governments that control their trade, or the means that interfere with their market expansion, power and profit. Eventually they may even form some type of world government.

FOREIGN POLICY

In analyzing Mr. Reagan's policy toward Cuba the respected British magazine THE ECONOMIST called it "pointless jobs". This pretty well applies to all of Mr. Reagan's foreign policy. Pointless jobs usually come from petty little people with petty little minds.

THE MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL WHAT ARE YOU? As I understand it the story goes as follows: God chose the Jews as his unique people, pledging that they would be indestructible and would live in peace and prosperity in their own land. Eretz Israel. Eretz Israel stretches from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates. The land was given as a reward and a blessing. Israel is more than a nation and the Jewish people are not like ordinary mortals who exist, evolve, and die out like the Finns, the Turks or the Canaanites. "Though I put an end to all the nations among whom thou art scattered, I will never put an end to Israel. Israel is indestructible, it is unique, it is holy, it is the Chosen of the Lord. A kingdom of Priests and a holy nation. They are a unique people given uniquely a particular land. The rights of the Jewish people to the land is not based on human favors or historical existence, it is a TITLE granted by the BUILDER and OWNER. And it was not taken from one nation so that the others may share it with the Jews. There can be no other that can freely live there share sovereignty and ownership. The previous inhabitants of the land refuse to recognize this fact, but God said: "And you should drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, if you do this - it shall be good, if not - the waters shall come and inundate you. You shall eliminate the inhabitants of the land, then you shall be privileged to inherit the land and pass it down to your children. But you do not ELIMINATE them, even though you will conquer the land you will not be privileged to hand it down to your children ..." The land of Israel is not one more Asian nation. It is God's land, reified in Christ - at least to put an end to the humiliation of HIS house. (The house of Israel), "I do this for your sake, O House of Israel, but rather for My holy name which you desecrated through the nations whether you came. And I will sanctify My great name that was desecrated amongst the nations. AND THE NATIONS SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD WHEN I SHALL BE SANCIFIED THROUGH YOU BEFORE YOUR EYES. The state of Israel is not a political creation it is a religious one. No power could have prevented its birth and no one can destroy it. It is the BEGINNING OF GOD'S WRATH, vengeance against the nations who ignored, disdained and humiliated Him, who found him irrelevant, who "knew him not" But it is...
only the BEGINNING and when will it end? And even if it does end, in whatever form and on whatever terms, then what becomes of the rest of us poor infidels? There is no redemption for us in the Torah. No coexistence is allowed because coexistence will “turn friends into lovers and Jewish women will be ravished by Arab men in bedroom retreats…” this will pollute the Jewish race and destroy its uniqueness. Jews must purify themselves from the many centuries of mixed bloods. They must become uniquely and solely Jewish once again. There is no miracle or intended evil in Kahane’s book, only a reflection of his faith. A faith that in his opinion, thousands of others whose present faith in Israel’s indestrucibility is not quite so strong and prefer a little more prudence in asserting their mission in life. “No one can tell a man to act where he can or cannot go, or, hot, and let us stop talking about poor little Israel, Israel cannot be beaten.” This is Begin talking not Kahane. What they want now is that friends stand united in thought of unleashing the wrath of mighty Israel (God). Since I have not been blessed with being Jewish and I am not privy to the dictum of the Torah, the Koran, or the Bible and on that basis I feel free to judge their actions as I do the actions of any other country, including my own. I also happen to believe that in the process of understanding and accepting the will of the Creator, humans, including Jews, (they are human even though otherwise) tend to invest the Creator with the human value system and its frailties, such as vengefulness. And we will not invest in vengeance. If, as the Christians believe, God said “vengeance is mine” he did so not because he wished vengeance but because human imperfections do not allow us to live in a power wisely. An entity so supreme, so powerful, so omnipotent as the Creator, does not play childish little games, or riddles, nor does he need favorites, or adoration, or partners in vengeance. He can will compliance, he can will knowledge and we would all know Him. Books like the Torah and the Bible are born of human despair, searching for hope through an all powerful God who will come to our aid, just as our fathers came to our aid when we were children. Nevertheless, just as I believe there is a higher force and intelligence in the universe, the Jews must believe that their Torah and other people have a right to their beliefs. Israel must forgive me however if I will keep a wary eye on its action since its intentions as to MY future as a non-choosen inhabitant of our common planet is not quite clear to me. I also believe that the U.S. should stop patronizing Israel. Israel speaks ofAllies, we speak of Friendship. Alliances are based on mutual interests, friendship on affection. Like a mother hen we won’t let go of the chicken, allowing it to make any of its own decisions and take the full consequences for its actions. We agonize for the cost, but as an ally, Israel sees this as posturing. Otherwise we would have long ago done what is usually done in international affairs, i.e., removed ourselves from a situation that is compromising our national interest. And until we do, Israel, the Arabs and the world will continue to interpret actions as declarations. As long as people here in Israel go...they have a father and a protector, THEIR God”. Mr. Begin made it quite clear that he is tired of our charade. They wish to make their case and we wish to do the same. So either we support them or we don’t as our national interest dictates. Incidentally, We, the people, would also like to know, unequivocally, what our national interest is in this matter.

THAILAND’S OPIUM WAR

In my latest newsletter I mentioned certain factors regarding the drug traffic and its connection with gun runners. Last fall I went to the Golden Triangle and interviewed various people, including members of the local Press who were unsatisfied by contentions. But I also managed to uncover some significant facts that will help understand the situation. The first thing I observed was a prevalent concern on the part of those interviewed that I would “write something bad about Thailand”. There was so much defensiveness it approached fear. I soon discovered the answer to this behavior. Apparently the Thai government denies that it is under pressure from the U.S. to solve the opium problem with an interview with Richard Hart, the top U.S. anti-drug officer in Bangkok, conducted by Richard Yocon, a reporter for THE NATION, reveals quite a different story. According to Mr. Yocon, Mr. Hart made the following statements: “We have been promised 10 promises but none for three years. How much longer do we have to wait?” When told that it was a difficult and complicated situation he replied: “You don’t know, you banned opium in 1932. WOULD YOU THI PEOPLE CONSIDER 22 years a long time or not?” (Actually the smoking of opium was first banned in 1859. It was the first Royal Edict ever obeyed in the press). “Mr. Hart must certainly be familiar with the geography, demography and conditions of Northern Thailand, if he is not he should be, it is a bit difficult to understand his disdainful statement. We have a war on drugs in the U.S. for much longer than 22 years and we haven’t even made a dent. Now let us look at the area around the Golden Triangle. Geographically it is a continuation of the Tibetan Highland, directly North and North-East of the Triangle is the Yunna Plateau, the Taush mountain and the Songtadan (4 rivers) Basin which are now part of China. North-West is the Shan Plateau, which is part of Burma. The area is traversed by many navigable rivers including the Mekong and the Salween which close to Chiang Rai then turns toward Laos and the Salween river which turns West into the Shan Plateau and Burma. This general area has been the origin of many ethnic tribes composed of fiercely independent, and primitive people who do not take kindly to strangers infringing on their turf. It could almost be called a primordial area for the countries to the South of it because from these areas came many of the original races that make up Thailand, Laos, Burma and Thailand. They are generally considered Sino-Tibetan and break down into several ethnolinguistic groups. As both China and Burma can attest this tribes have been able to resist and submit peacefully and meekly, Burma’s constant fighting with the tribes in the Shan Plateau and China’s development of the most effective areas pushed most of the tribes into remote valleys or higher elevations. This dislocation also brought privation and malnutrition due to lack of appropriate resources for tribal sources of food. In the Golden Triangle they soon discovered that the colorful poppies could quell the pains of hunger and bring instant happiness. They also discovered that opium grew easily and could withstand for long period of time, and, most of all, with increased contact with the outside world brought on by wars, such as Viet-Nam, they also discovered that it made them richer. This led to the gigantic sculpture of a rocket taking off into space, making sure that tourists do not forget Sputnik. And the people? Well I saw little difference there between the large U.S. cities. Everyone is hurrying along, paying little attention to anything except achieving their objective. No time here to stop and chat, much less a moment to enjoy the sights. Everything passes by so fast with the sights moving at speeds that boggles the mind. And were one very disturbing factor. In the street the

CHINA AND RUSSIA:

A contrast in personalities

Last March I visited China for the third time in two years and this time, as in previous times, I was pleasantly surprised to see how the Chinese government, and its people, are managing so many things in the Western world without the unpleasant side effects that often accompany them. The Chinese people are still friendly, smiling, curious, polite and interested in the West. Specifically, the People’s Daily, whom I met on previous trips, spent the entire day with us. He escorted us to the conference at the Foreign Ministry, a visit to the T.V. and the Daily sightseeing, or just sitting around the lobby of the Peking hotel drinking beer and talking about this and that, just like old friends. I was surprised to see each other again. It is difficult to dislike China and the Chinese.

Arriving in Russia from China was a chilly experience. Everyone had to go to Moscow to present documents and there were the evidences of the efforts the Russians have exerted to prove their equality, and gain the acceptance of a Western world which has often looked upon Russia as culturally backward and technologically backward non-entity. From the palaces of Leningrad, so carefully designed to rival 17th and 18th century French palaces, to the future of the future of the Soviet Union, it is a giant leap. Everyone is hurrying along, paying little attention to anything except achieving their objective. No time here to stop and chat, or just to enjoy the sights. Everything passes by so fast with the sights moving at speeds that boggles the mind. And were one very disturbing factor. In the street the
THAILAND YOUNG TURKS

In Thailand, as in other parts of the third world developing countries, a new breed of leadership is coming into power. People with communist sympathies or ties to the particular military movements of the countries rather than dogmas and isms. Two such leaders are the brothers Sundaravej, Sumak and Sumit. The founders of one of the fastest growing parties in Thailand, the Thai Communist Party, were both elected to parliament and have held responsible ministries positions. While Sumit concentrates on ASEAN relations and the development of an ASEAN Secretariat, Sumak is concentrating his efforts toward economic reforms.

In an exclusive interview I was told that Thailand’s primary economic problem is the lack of a consistent policy toward the urban to rural sector. He envisions the development of self-sufficient agricultural entities with the necessary technology and facilities, their products thus curtailting, or eliminating, imports of various commodities. This would allow the predominantly agricultural population of Thailand to develop a decent standard of living and avoid having to migrate to the cities. Sumak would also like to streamline the presently cumbersome government process. He points out that the success of Singapore is due primarily to the efficiency of its governmental structure. (Singapore, incidentally, just eliminated the only representative of an opposition party as non-productive.) Sumak further points out that at the age of 29, he is the youngest Per Thai Party is growing they will be ruling Thailand in six years. Sumak is 47 years old and Sumit is even younger.

BURMA

Stepping into Burma from Bangkok is quite an experience. The colonials have gone but nothing else has changed. It is a place frozen in time. In such a situation it is difficult to assess the conditions. The people are friendly, well educated and appear happy. Life is simple, serene, there is no pollution and the streets are clean. Practicing Buddhist economics means keeping the country out of the world economy. The Burmese economy is developing at its own pace on the basis of its own culture. The Government is downight oppressive in its effort of keeping out foreign influence. The Burma case is a complete isolation, like a newly discovered South Sea island. It is an experiment that cannot be judged in terms of decades but in terms of centuries. Qualitatively one would have to say life is better in Burma than in Bangkok in terms of environment. Bangkok’s noise and smog pollution has become unbearable compared with Rangoon but, there again, is a way around it as to what they prefer to give up. Personally I made a friend in Burma with whom I am corresponding and who loves blue jeans. Through this friend, I found, cherished, and friend, I am learning to understand Burma.

AFRICA

SENEGAL

The Zont Club of Dakar has sponsored a project to help rural women and check the exodus from rural to urban areas. The project will create sources of income by diversifying production possibilities and creating new, small scale production possibilities. They also plan to promote activities that will allow women to participate in development projects.

KEEP YOUR EYES ON DAR AL MAAL

Dar al Maal al Islam (The House of Islamic Funds), better known as the Islamic Bank, has moved into Africa with considerable success. Islamic Banks never give on the interest they invest in things such as alcohol, pork products or ARMENTAMENTS. It operates in conformity with Islamic principals and this makes it popular in Islamic nations, while its operation makes it popular among many nations in the third world. In West Africa Dar al Maal started with Senegal and Guinea then went on to Mauritania to look into the ways they are becoming involved in development projects in partnership with

Zonta International (a service organization composed of executive women) in cooperation with UNICEF is planning to build 4,000 shallow water wells to provide clean drinking water for 25,000 families in the Mahaweli Development Area. As a member of Zonta, I personally, bought the necessary pump for one well and I cannot tell you all the pleasure it is to be a member involved in a project of this kind instead of just sending money, much of which is being absorbed by overhead in some bureaucratic organization.

Over the years Zonta has built Anne Frank Village for non-remigrants in West Germany; a women’s vocational school and teacher-training program in Ramallah; a Pan-African training and research centre for women for the distribution of New York, Washington, and the African financing of the Women’s Volunteer Task Force to serve the needs of women in rural areas, and it just completed the Columbia urban slum project for the construction and equipment of health and education centers. For additional information on Zonta write to me.
local investors. Dr. Haldane explains that the popularity of the bank is due, considerably, to the fact that they are not in there to take the profit out of the countries like other banks "we want to involve ourselves in their local economic cycle" he said. (African Business, July 82).

ANGOLA
Moscow may be a strange place to have an interview with someone from Angola but I did, over lunch, at the Cosmos hotel. Rita Leite is an athlete from Angola and was most happy to discuss her story with me. She spoke freely but we soon got on quite well with my Spanish and his Portuguese. "Angola", he said, "will never have peace until Namibia is free because it is a part of the African region and it is difficult for us to consolidate our economy. Angola does not export her revolution but the reality of Angola's experiment is an inspiration to other Continental and sub-Saharan Africa. Angola is a rich Country, but a socialist Country. This is why president Richard, in cooperation with South Africa, is a reality. We have good relations with all socialist countries, including Cuba and we will accept their help but we do not receive any help from China. Russia is the only one that helps us, both militarily and economically. We have a long South Africa continues her incursions, and they will continue because Namibia will continue to demand freedom, and we will have other help from Russia which is also an important factor in South Africa. But Angola never rejects commercial ties with any Country as long as they do not interfere in our affairs."

EUROPE

SICILY: The Tales of Two Cities
I arrived in Sicily around the middle of May, only a few weeks after six people had been killed in Catania in a re-arrangement of the contini (settlement of scores). In Palermo, only a couple of weeks before, Pio La Torre, secretary of the Sicilian region's Communist party, was gunned down. Two suspects of a Mafia hit men, Palermo is the centre of Mafia activity, something that the people of Catania are quick to point out. In Catania,una large part of the people from various economic levels. In Inthailand, they appeared a bit tired of discussing the drug scene and concerned about public opinion. I began my interview with the mayor, a farm manager. He was pointed out to me that the Mafia did not flourish in that area but in the south of Italy because they had well organized, and efficient labor unions in the north where not. Furthermore, economic life was easier in the Catania area than in Palermo and local landowners owned had good relations with the peasants. "And what about Mafia money in construction and banks?" "Local construction" they stated was done with local and government money, any influx of outside money in the local banks would be easily detected and could be stopped. Anyhow, everywhere money was coming from, that helped considerably. My other interview was with a member of an old and prominent family in the Catania area. His explanation was more historical but in tune with previous interviews. He pointed out that the Mafia began, and flourished in Palermo because Palermo had always been in the thick of government with all the bureaucracy and military establishment that goes with it. Peasants in the surrounding areas were over taxed and exploited and given nothing in return. They felt a need for some type of social justice or system so they developed their own. It started out as a reaction to need and it was good but soon the protectors became the oppressors as they developed their own bureaucratic and thrust for power. Power struggle developed between Palermo and the surrounding areas and the killing began. Before, the killings were vendettas for abuses done on the peasants and local women. Like a bureaucratic entities the Mafia went on to do what it had to do to stay in power and survive as an entity, but without the seat of government officials and money hungry politicians it would have disappeared long ago. This did not happen in Catania because there was nothing to justify its coming into existence. Today, it is, a matter of demand for services that gave the Mafia its base and a corrupt, oppressive bureaucracy that keeps in power. Another interview with a middle class professional was more simple and direct answer: "Drug traffic was never a major problem in Sicily, if there is one now because, you Americans, want it there. . . ." He would not elaborate.

There is an interesting link between the situation in Sicily and the one in the Golden Triangle. In both cases it would appear that at a certain point there emerges in any area a need for organiza- tion to meet a demand of the community and to get some kind of an economic base. Once such an organizational base is developed, where no one previously existed, it becomes a natural and organic part of the area and it will live on and develop as a system as a non-familiar system. People cannot so easily be re-programmed.

ROME

I was in Rome when President Reagan arrived and it looked like the 1960s. Literally hundreds of thousands of people, members of an international multitude of groups and organizations, marched on the American Embassy protesting for war and everything imaginable. I was surprised to see that Lotta Continua was still in existence. Lotta Continua made quite a name for itself in the 1960s as an ultra radical, primarily students, organization. In the U.S. such groups tend to die out and be re-born as need arises, the only exception is a country which has blighted, and accepted, the right. The reason was given, that with the currency of a country restored, the people of all the world can be used. As a result, the people of all the world can be used a political force and not only for good.
FROM THE ASIA NEWS COMMERCIALS report that election officials stipulated that the popular party should be the main party of the government of the Philippines. The party, which has held power for the past 26 years, has been weakened by a scandal over its use of campaign funds. The party's leader, Joseph Estrada, was arrested on charges of corruption.

LATIN AMERICA Twenty years after the meeting that created the Latin American Free Trade Area (LAFTA), no region-wide agreement is in sight. In fact, with the help of local governments, large transnational companies are buying up the best tracts of land in the expense of local farmers and landless peasants. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is enforcing supply-side economics at great social cost to the majority of the people. Belaunde's free market economics, for example, is strangling Peru and threatening the country's future. On the other hand, the Peruvian national policy of protecting Peruvian agriculture from small imports of foreign goods, has been successful. The government has successfully protected the country's agriculture from the country's traditional competitors.

AFRICA A meeting of African-Arab Information Ministers held recently in Tunis provided an agreement to launch an international media offensive. The World Bank has approved a $253.5 million RELIEZ loan that will be used for rural road improvements.

MIDDLE EAST J.D.O. members forced the cancellation of a Press Club conference called by Arab-American activists. J.D.O. gunmen showed up at the Press Club brandishing shotguns and pistols and held their own conference. The American Press Club and the Arab-American National Federation held a press conference and called for a boycott of the gunmen. The Conference on Defense Information in Washington had a telephone interview with the Moscow News Agency. The interview was conducted in the August 1982 issue #32 of Moscow News.