# I!S. to the NEWS

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## TESTING JIMMY CARTER

John Connally, former Cabinet official and Governor of Texas, recently predicted that President Jimmy Carter will 1s "tested II by the Soviets within the first 90 days of his new administration.

This statement by Governor Connally shows unusual perception about the men in the Kremlin. Those who understand the Communists find it easy to forecast their actions. It is the regular practice of the Soviets to test each new American President to see what stuff he is made of, and whether he can be deceived, brainwashed, pushed, shoved, or intimidated by Soviet demands.

Khrushchev tested President John F. Kennedy within five months of his taking office. Kennedy never gave an official report on his private conferences with Khrushchev at Vienna in 1961, but eventually the major facts leaked out. The crude and earthy Khrushchev ranted and raved, bullied and shouted.

He threatened to move against West Berlin with all the might of the huge Soviet conventional military forces. He even threatened the use of nuclear weapons. He reminded Kennedy that the Soviets had developed the world's first ICBM even before they successfully orbited the world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik I.

After making his personal estimate of Kennedy's character and vulnerabilities at Vienna, Khrushchev followed up with an additional test. Through the poet Robert Frost, Khrushchev sent Kennedy a message. It was a taunt that the United States was "too liberal to fight -- even in defense of U.S. vital interests."

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When President Kenned.y made no response, Khrushchev eonsph;ed wi'th Kosygin and Castro to seoretly.shj.p offensive missiles to Cuba, thereby bringing Jilost U.S. major cities within minutes o:t: nuclear incineration.

Geralcl Ford ·wtrn tested by the Soviets three months tLfter he became President. Brezhnev invited Pord to a get-acquainted visit in Vladivostok in November 1974.

When President Pord arrived, Brezhnev bear-hugged him. and the1.1 put him through an intensive nine-hour eyeball-to-eyeball negotiating session on strategic arms. li'ord was suffering from fatique and jet-lag after a 17,000-mile trtp to the 1:<"'ar l::ast that had been craillD14:'d with ceremonial duties.

Brezhnev was re.stetl. ancl relaxed on his own home territory, am] was supported by the two most experienced and dishonest negotiators in the world, .Andrei Gromyko anc1 Anatoly Dobrynin. Those were the euune two diplomats who were publ ioly denouncecl by President Kenn.edy for lying to him about missiles in Cuba in 1962.

Brezhnev oa1ue out of that smoke-fillet'! room with a SAL'r II agreement that puts no lid on th ) Soviet at,tainment of a first-strj_ke capability against the United States. The Vladivostok agreement will permit the soviets to MIRV all their giant SS-18 ICBMs plus a thousand other ICBMs. This total will be more than adequate to knock out all our Minuteman missiles.

To the men in the Kremlin• President-elect Jimmy Carter is au unknown quantity. They will surely test him within months of his taking office, probably in an orcleal ot summitry, in order to find out if he is made of steel or cotton-candy in dealing with the nussians.

To be fo1•ewarned is to be forear111ed. President-elect Carter needs advisers wllo have .Brezhnev's number. and John Connally fits that prescription. It is unlikely that he would be intimidated or amlmshed by the Kremlin bullies. The best appointment President Carter oould rnake would be to name (John Connally as .Ambassador· **to** nussia. He would be a good cou11terweight to .Ambassador lJobrynin..

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