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HAROLD BROWN APPOINTMENT

Harold Brown, former Secretary of the Air Force and now president of California Institute of Technology, has emerged as one of the few controversial appointees in Jimmy Carter's Cabinet.

The military hardliners are critical of him because of his soft stance toward the Soviets during 2½ years of SALT I negotiations in Helsinki and Vienna. The military softliners are critical of Brown because of his hawkish support of the Vietnam War.

Contrary to popular assumption, these two policies are not contradictory but complementary. These two attitudes are the identifying characteristics of most of the leading defense and foreign policy-makers of the Johnson and Nixon Administrations, including former Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, former Secretary of State Dean Rusk, former National Security Advisers McGeorge Bundy and Walt W. Rostow, and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

These are the same leaders who have been telling us for more than a decade that our security should be based on U.S.-Soviet agreements and U.S. restraint in weapons-building instead of on U.S. military superiority.

This was the group that prolonged the eight-year war in Vietnam by a policy of creeping escalation. The proof is spelled out in the secret "Pentagon ?apers" that Daniel Ellsberg turned over to the New York Times and the Washington Post, and in the way Henry Kissinger pressed the panic button to try to plug the Ellsberg leak. The "Pentagon Papers" laid bare how the McNamara crowd prolonged the Vietnam War. The Kissinger policies on Vietnam wer ssentially the same.

The proof that being h.awkish on Vietnam and dovish on SALT is a wholly compatible position lies in the fact that the Soviet Union was the one who profited from both policies.

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The United States squandered 10 years of time, 55,000 lives, and $140 billion on a war that is now lost, on an ally who is now crushed, and on weapons that are now destroyed or captured by the enemy. During that same period of time, the Soviets spent a comparable amount of money to build the mightiest and most modern strategic force the world has ever seen.

The SALT I negotiations extended for 2 years and culminated in the Moscow Summit of May 1972. The U.S. negotiating team, of which Harold Brown was a member, was backed up by a large staff of experts and all the facilities of the National Security Council, the Defense and State Departments, and the U.S.Disarrriament Agency.

Yet the result was a document shot through with loopholes that advantage the Soviets and spell out our inferiority by a ratio of 3 to 2. Even the mechanics of the drafting were so defective that it was necessary to issue four different official interpretations.

The best summary of the SALT I Agreements was given by Senator Henry Jackson: "Simply put, the agreements give the Soviets more of everything: more light ICBMs, more heavy ICBMs, more submarine launched missiles, more submarines, more payload, even more ABM radars. In no area covered by the agreemen is the United States permitted to maintain parity with the Soviet Union."

Harold Brown was one of Defense Secretary Robert McNamara's principal lieutenants in conducting the Vietnam tragedy that McNamara once said he would be glad to have known as "McNamara's war." Harold Brown was one of Henry Kissinger's _principal lieutenants in negotiating the SALT I agreements.

The Vietnam War made it financially impossible to build strategic weapons to stay ahead of the Soviets because our defense dollars were diverted into a bottomless pit in Southeast Asia. The SALT I agreements made it legally impossible to build strategic weapons even to maintain parity with the Soviets.

There are.no contradictions or inconsistencies in Harold Brown's record.

Despite his boast that he is "not ideological," his actions mark him as a man who should be called "Secretary of Unilateral Disarmament" instead of Secretary of Defense.

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