PS1 for 3/17/88#SAGAN'S HATE AMERICA CAMPAIGN

(BF)Parade(end BF) Magazine recently departed from its generally nonideological Sunday Magazine themes to publish a diatribe against the United States by Carl Sagan. Sagan falsely accuses the United States of every sin in the book -- of invading other countries on 130 occasions, of being consumed with racism and greed, of a conspiracy of the rich against the poor, and of destroying Canadian forests.

Sagan equates the United States with the Soviet Union. A plague on both your houses is Sagan's thesis, erecting a false parallel between our noble (though unsuccessful) attempt to save South Vietnam and Cambodia from Communism, with the Soviet enslavement of the Captive Nations.

Sagan peddles fear under cover of ""science'' and falsehood under cover of concern. Sagan is paranoid about what he calls America's ""unseen dangers'' from transparent gases and invisible radiation that can be understood only by Ph.D.s like himself who give them ""careful thought.''

In Sagan's hall of horrors, a hundred years from now, the great grain fields of midwest United States will be reduced to ""scrub deserts'' as a result of carbon dioxide from burning coal which, he says, will raise the temperature of Planet Earth. Surely, the can-do American scientific community can solve this problem, or develop alternatives, before our corn and wheat turn to cactus.

Sagan wants to make countries ""agriculturally self-sufficient.'' He apparently has not grasped the fundamental fact about agricultural self-sufficiency, namely, that it depends on an economic system of private property, plus freedom of the farmers to produce, inventors to invent, and investors to manufacture and sell the marvelous machinery of American agriculture.

Only America has such a system! That's why we are the only

country in history that has never had a famine, and why our 2.3 million farms produce far more than our 240 million Americans can consume.

Sagan ridicules what he calls the protestations of both superpowers to ""moral rectitude.'' What he fails to tell his readers is that American morality is constitutionally based on the individual's right to life, liberty and private property, whereas Soviet ""morality'' is based on subservience to the all-powerful state.

Since Sagan takes the liberty of speculating about the future, let's take the liberty of speculating about what might have been in the not-so-distant past.

At the end of World War II, the United States had overwhelming military and nuclear superiority over not only the Soviet Union, but over all the rest of the world combined. We could have dictated to, occupied, conquered, or even destroyed any other nation in the world without any risk of retaliation.

Instead of using that power for American aggrandizement, we taxed our people to send foreign aid to a hundred other countries. We even built up our enemies who, in their savage pursuit of world conquest, had killed 300,000 U.S. servicemen and wounded another 670,000.

Just imagine, for a moment, how different world geography would have been if the atom bomb had been the exclusive possession of Stalin, or Hitler, or Imperial Japan. It's not a pretty thought.

From all over the world, people by the millions have voted with their feet in the world's most stunning survey of public opinion about whether the U.S. or the U.S.S.R. is the superior system. People risk death to cross the Berlin Wall, run across mined fields, climb barbed wire fences, swim shark-infested waters, and crowd in leaky little boats just for a chance to come to America.

Nobody is doing anything like that to get into the Soviet Union. They all want to get out of the Communist prison called the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Our long unbarricaded borders are places where aliens try to sneak in, not where Americans try to sneak out. Our border officials are trying to catch illegal immigrants, not American citizens trying to escape.

Sagan's silliness reminds us of one of the Russian jokes that Russians tell to each other. An American visiting in Moscow bragged to a local Russian, ""In the United States, we have freedom of speech. I can stand in front of the White House and yell 'To hell with Ronald Reagan.''' To which the Russian replied, ""So what! I can stand in front of the Kremlin and yell 'To Hell with Ronald Reagan.'''

Carl Sagan would be welcome to peddle his hate America rantings in front of the Kremlin. But you can be sure he won't go there and tell the truth about the Soviet Union.