Seto the NEWS

by PHYLLIS SCHL.AFLY

Box 618, Alton, Illinois 62002
Phone: 618-462-5415

RELEASE: May 4

SOLZHENITSYN INTERVIEW

Alert and intelligent visitors can often better evaluate and describe a nation than the natives. The commentaries about America by the 19th century French visitor, Alexis de Toqueville, are still studied in our colleges. Likewise a perceptive modern visitor, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, has described what is wrong with United States' policy better than any of our would-be leaders or presidential candidates.

In a recent impressive television interview, Solzhenitsyn de plored the way the United States is financing its own destruction. "It is the importation of [American] technology which is saving the Soviets," he said, while at the same time the Soviets have so geared their system to building up a war-making capability that, "even if it were the unanimous opinion of all the members of the Politburo, they would be powerless !!.2.!, to cause war."

This view is corroborated by chilling warnings from the Pentagon that the Soviets consider a nuclear war "inevitable." General Daniel Graham, who recently retired as director of military intelligence, has warned that Soviet spending on military weapons now matches the percentage that Adolf Hitler was spending immediately prior to World War II.

Leonid Brezhnev, in his recent five-hour speech to the 25th Communist Party Congress, laid down the gauntlet of Soviet objectives. He said: "There is no room for neutrality and compromise in the struggle between the two ideologies. HeTe there is a need for con-

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staut itical vigilance, active, efficient, and convincing propa- gHnde, and timely rebuffs to enPmy ideological subversions."

A11:pereutly taunting Preside::rnt Ford. l:U".ild./or SecretEry of State Hrmry Kissinr er, Brezhnev conti:r.mt'd; 11>:ome bourgeois lf:aders affect surprise and raise a howl over the solidarity of Soviet Communists and the Soviet peoplr; wi't;h the struggle of other peoples .fo:r f:iret dom and progress. This is either outright naivete, **or** more likf;Jv. deliberate mental biefuddh nu.mt.11

" Ford and Kissinger may be "befuddled about soviet policies, 1::rut the::> American people see them cleiirly. Presidential candidates havfJ discovered that as many 1.rn 70 perccn:t of those responding **to** polls thi:nk that th tente lH lps the -;ovit ts and harms the United States.

Al though Solzheni tsyr.t understanr:s the Soviet mind and behavior so,,,.1ell, he cannot understand "th,s i-tpeed of [.American] capitula tione" in the face of Soviet aggression. It does not make sense to him that the United States, '1possessing freedom, does not value it enough to defend it."

When the television interviewer asked Solzh<-!rd tsyn if he die not fear returning to the era of the Cold War, ;:iolzheni tsyn. x·emh'llded him that "the ijest conceded nothing" to the Soviets during the Cold War; but tmder dete:nte, the West hf%s given up :fivAJ countries Dnd i1all its world positions 1· of power. i/hm1t the qtrnstioner conjured rxp the specter of the glib Bertrand Russell slogm:1, "Hather :,tea than dead," Solzhenitsyn rieplif,d, 1'!J1< tter to b(dead th:tUA a scoturi.drel. 1·

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