

Carter's claim that SALT negotiations have just begun was unmasked as fantasy by reports from knowledgeable Western observers that the Soviet Union has made no commitment to discuss the nuclear issue at a May meeting between the two superpowers. At a press conference Soviet Communist Party chairman Leonid Brezhnev accused the U.S. of abandoning a previously "constructive approach" to nuclear arms control and adopting a "one-sided position" in negotiations with Moscow.

Brezhnev's statement followed Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's March 31 denunciation of Carter's SALT proposals as a bid to institutionalize limited nuclear war games between the powers.

Visibly shaken by the critical reviews from Moscow and Washington, Vance refused to rule out the possibility that U.S. "miscalculations" prompted Soviet rejection of

his SALT package. "No one can say that one never makes any miscalculations," Vance nervously twittered at an impromptu press conference April 3 called to explain why the USSR's leadership refused to react according to their Rand profile.

The total disintegration of the "hang tough" Carter Administration posture of last week was betrayed by the bizarre activities of the presidential press secretary early this week. At 6 a.m. on April 4, Jody Powell telephoned Associated Press reporter Richard Meyer with a denial "that the Administration, including the Secretary of State, made miscalculations that played any role in the initial Soviet reaction of the proposals." Throughout the day Powell and State Department spokesman bombarded other journalists with the same "denials."

Carter Threatens 'Dissolution Of Detente,' GOP House Leader Charges

The remarks on Carter's foreign policy are excerpted from a speech given by Rep. John J. Rhodes, House Minority Leader, at the Lincoln Day Dinner held in Jacksonville, Florida on March 31, 1977.

... After just two months, many of us in Congress are quite concerned about the spray-shot foreign policy that already seems to have developed. His diplomatic appointments have *not* sparkled, nor inspired confidence in their competence.

So far he has managed to antagonize several of our allies, threaten dissolution of détente, and to compromise the effectiveness of our policies, by making rash statements, and then trying to confuse the issue with partial denials.

You know that this is a perilous world. Relationships are fragile, tenuous, and fraught with perils to peace. If a mistake is made in domestic policy, some money is wasted, and laws can be passed to repair the damage. Foreign policy is another matter. In this nuclear age, we cannot afford faulty decisions. Misunderstandings can

escalate too quickly — to confrontations and conflict. Also, we are in an economically interdependent world. No nation must be depend more on good relations with our world neighbors than the United States. We must import and export billions of dollars worth of goods to keep our economy going and growing.

Our people pay for the decisions made in Washington. *I believe that the "let it fly, then clarify" foreign policy now in effect is dangerous hip-shooting, out of place in the world today...*

... Mr. Carter seems to believe that bombast, bluster and campaign style rhetoric can be carried over into the intricacies of foreign affairs. He must learn that he is dealing with masters of the craft of diplomacy, which has been defined as lie and deny. He *cannot* substitute a play to the galleries — and ploys for the media — for skill, patience, timing, and firmness expressed through action.

Carter was elected by 27 percent of the eligible voters in the United States. This does not authorize him to become the oracle of the universe — or the moral policeman for the world. *His actions to date have damaged, not helped the cause of human rights around the globe...*