

the Soviets specifically mentioning Harriman's meeting with Carter and Coordinating Committee co-chairman Shulman's longstanding close relation to Harriman.

Brzezinski's ally Richard Pipes, a member of the war-hawk *Committee on the Present Danger*, summed up the meaning of the "policy shuffle" in an interview prior to Carter's Charleston speech: "The new committee could

simply be a cosmetic maneuver — letting the Russians know that they could bring their complaints to Shulman and get a hearing. There's no way of knowing until we hear Carter's speech. If he merely says that he was sorry somewhat about the harshness of some of his statements, but still maintains his stand on the important issues, I'll be very pleased..."

## Defense Task Force Formed To Spur Strategic Policy Debate

*"American Whig" political and military leaders broke with the Carter Administration and its financier backers on defense policy last week, and organized a new opposition formation, "the Defense Task Force." The new group went public at a July 19 press conference in Washington sponsored by the American Conservative Union.*

*The formation of the Task Force provides an important opportunity for a national debate on the U.S.-Soviet strategic policy. However, if the Task Force fails to address the overriding economic issues which have created the grave war danger, it could unwittingly precipitate an intensified arms race, and enhance the danger of general war. Reprinted below are two press releases from Rep. Philip Crane and Sen. Jake Garn issued at the formation of the Task Force.*

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### Crane and Colleagues Blast Carter Defense Policies

July 19 — Congressman Philip Crane, the sponsor of a joint House-Senate press conference called expressly to "make public our concern over dangerous trends in U.S. defense capabilities," spoke out sharply against the "unilateral concessions made by the U.S. without securing any Soviet reductions in arms capability."

Sharing the podium with Sens. Curtis, Dole, Garn, Hatch, Hayakawa, Laxalt, Thurmond and Cong. Bob Dornan and Steve Symms, Adm. Eliot Strauss and Gens. G. Keegan and D. Graham, Crane referred specifically to Carter Administration decisions to scrap the B-1 bomber, the Minuteman I and II upgrade programs, and to cut back in the development of MX. "I believe that the recent decisions mandating unilateral cuts in our defense program will increase the prospects for nuclear war rather than enhance the prospects for stability and peace."

Crane's colleagues echoed his sentiments, each of them denouncing last night's Senate vote (59-36) to kill funding for the B-1 bomber as requested by the

President. Sen. Hayakawa, announcing his "unqualified conclusions" that the B-1 is needed, explained his views: "If we don't have this weapon we are likely to need it desperately; if we have it we are likely never to have to use it." Sen. Paul Laxalt was even more adamant in his tersely stated opinion that the "Senate abdicated its responsibility on the B-1 bomber."

Sen. Jake Garn, introduced as the chairman of a "Defense Task Force," spoke at length on his perception of the "continual degrading" of the U.S. defense capabilities leaving the U.S. in a position "second to the Soviet Union."

The Task Force's purpose as explained by Crane is to disseminate "no nonsense facts and figures" concerning our national defense capability. According to Crane, the Task Force's first priority is to "alert the American people to the dangers inherent in President Carter's emerging defense policy." The Task Force will make available the expertise of military officials, legislators and educators to explain the impact of congressional and presidential defense decisions to the American Public through lectures, written material and media coverage.

Crane concluded the press conference by calling on the American people to "make known to the President that they will not accept the prospect of the U.S. falling behind the Soviet Union in defense capability. The President must be educated to the folly of his decision if we are to ensure our country's survival."

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### Spearheads National Defense Policy Task Force

July 18 — Senator Jake Garn (R-Utah) today announced that he has agreed to head a task force on national defense policy, sponsored by the American Conservative Union. The Senator also said that he will be one of the principal participants in a news conference tomorrow, in which several members of Congress and others will discuss "the potential consequences of President Carter's national defense policy."

“President Carter has made some recent decisions which could have grave consequences as far as our national security is concerned... In my opinion, he seriously weakened our defense triad when he recommended stopping production of the B-1 bomber. The triad was further weakened when the President announced only a few days later that he wants the Minuteman Missile production line closed. Either one of these decisions, taken alone, would have concerned me, but taken together, they seriously weaken our defense and national security.

The triad defense concept has served the national well, and it should not be abandoned without a full-scale

national debate. Certainly, the executive branch of government should not be allowed to dismantle it unilaterally. The full impact of President Carter’s action should be brought to the attention of the American people. Tomorrow’s news conference is a first step in that direction.”

Senator Garn said that it is not known, at this time, exactly what the makeup of the Task Force will be, but that defense experts will be asked to join members of Congress in the effort. The Senator said members of the group will likely tour the country to “alert the public to the problem as we see it.”