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Included in the RNC "Strategic Alternatives Team" assessment is their answer to Carter's handling of SALT II negotiations. Claiming that the "most pressing matter" for U.S. security is the Soviet Union's sophisticated missile arsenal, the report argues for the MAPS plan (Multiple Aim Point System), a revamped game of Chinese checkers in which land-based missiles would be switched around between underground silos, leaving some empty to "confuse" Soviet efforts to pinpoint actual missile location.

Equally ominous was a recent *Washington Post* Op-Ed by Sen. William S. Cohen (R-Me), ranking minority member of the Senate subcommittee on arms control. Cohen dared the Administration to respond to the "harsh realities of geopolitical strategy" by linking SALT to "the current state of world events," a formulation identified with pro British geopolitician Henry Kissinger. While the U.S. is "wracked by indecision," Cohen says, "...the Soviet Union...is aggressively and arrogantly exploiting, if not inciting, turmoil throughout the world." Cohen's solution: a new arms buildup to foster "world peace through a program of strength."

The Republican Party

Despite the flurry of backroom organizing behind Alexander Haig's presidential candidacy, those who want to put the NATO commander in the White House have so far refrained from openly publicizing their protégé.

This has little to do with the fact that Haig's resignation as NATO Commander-in-chief will not take effect until June, thus ruling out active campaigning as a matter of protocol. In fact, it reflects the realization of strategists at the Council on Foreign Relations that under normal conditions, Haig is simply not an acceptable candidate to the American people.

Haig promoters have decided instead to bide their time until the situation is ripe. As Bob Richardson, of the American Security Council, an advisor to Haig explained in a previously reported interview with the *Executive Intelligence Review*:

"If there were a series of crises...Iran goes down the tubes and there is an oil cut-off to the U.S. — then the man in the street will get scared and start saying 'We need a military man...' That's when Haig's candidacy becomes real..."

The Haig strategists also hope to corral Republican leaders and voter support for candidates who are acting, wittingly or not, as stalking horses for Haig. Their plans hinge on creating a climate where the issues and debate will be dominated by Alexander Haig's presence. The intent is to deprive the American public of a viable alternative to Haig.

Bush and Baker

At present the most obvious front men for Haig are George Bush and Howard Baker. New York Senator Daniel Moynihan is functioning similarly, in conjunction with the more conservative Zionist lobby wing of the Democratic Party.

Both Baker and Bush are putting forward the "geopolitical" foreign policy programs that will popularize the economic austerity and military policies which will define a Haig administration.

That the two have been assigned this role should come as no surprise. Bush, who assiduously cultivates an image as a conservative Texan, is actually the scion of an old, patrician New England family. He is blueblood from Connecticut who graduated from Yale University, thoroughly indoctrinated in that institution's High Anglican traditions which include official ties with Oxford University, the alma mater of Cecil Rhodes. His impeccable Eastern Establishment credentials derive in part from his father, Connecticut Senator Prescott Bush,

'Front men for Haig'

In a briefing to reporters March 19, Steve Bryen, a coordinator of Patrick Moynihan's pro-Zionist Coalition for a Democratic Majority and a former top pro-Israel aide in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who had been under investigation for passing American state secrets to the Israelis, outlined the following perspective on the prospective presidential candidacy of General Alexander Haig on the Republican ticket:

There's certainly a lot of talk in Washington about a Haig candidacy. He's a very bright guy, very able, but he's not yet decided to run. On foreign policy, we like his policy, but we have to find out more about his domestic policies. In any case, he could be "the dark horse General" candidate.

The problem as I see it is that he's well-known in Washington among key circles, but he's not well known out there to the public. He needs a front man. George Bush is likely to front for him, but Bush only has 1 percent support from the polls. So, what's needed is something like somebody of the stature of Gerald Ford doing the job: if somebody like Ford were to start saying "Haig is the man," then the situation would begin to develop in the appropriate direction.