

Editorial

The new face of war

President Bush captured media attention with his Sept. 27 announcement that the United States is no longer on a military alert status to guard against a possible Soviet attack. Specifically, Bush said that the U.S. will withdraw its ground-launched, short-range nuclear missiles and nuclear artillery from Europe and destroy them.

Other points included taking tactical nuclear weapons off ships, submarines, and land-based naval aircraft, and taking the intercontinental ballistic missiles and strategic bombers off alert status. Bush's rationale for this, that the Soviet Union is no longer a military threat, is not convincing, particularly because of the policy which George Bush himself has chosen vis-à-vis the republics of the former Soviet Union.

In a word, U.S. policy toward the Union of Sovereign States is guaranteed to encourage the greatest amount of economic chaos, and, therefore, political instability. Under conditions of civil war, the danger of a desperation move by Russian chauvinists becomes more, rather than less, likely. This could take the form of a nuclear first strike against the United States.

Rather than seeking to guarantee stability in the territory that was the Soviet Union, by aiding the new republics, U.S. policy is to maintain the fiction that the Soviet Union is viable and that Mikhail Gorbachov is holding the reins of power. The United States delayed in recognizing the Baltic republics until the last possible moment, and even more serious, the United States is demanding that the newly liberated republics accept the suicidal demands of the International Monetary Fund and follow the economic guidelines laid out by free-marketeer Harvard Prof. Jeffrey Sachs. These moves are all guaranteed to add to the instability of the region.

Along with the fact that we cannot discount a future military threat from Russia, many people also rightly conclude that the demonstrated insanity of the Bush administration is such that a militarized United States is also a danger to world security. The question then arises whether the Bush disarmament strategy is merely

a ploy to gain headlines, and a way to save money on certain big ticket items.

Is George Bush a man of peace, as he claims?

The answer is obviously, no. The Bush policy is one of military aggression; it is simply that the administration believes that it can successfully achieve its imperial aims of Anglo-American world domination by fighting a series of small wars rather than having a superpower confrontation.

In fact, this has been U.S. policy since Henry Kissinger introduced the policy of détente to the United States during the Nixon administration, as we documented in the May 3, 1991 issue. This policy, which is discussed under the rubric of population control, governed the invasion of Panama, the war against Iraq, the sending of French troops to Zaire, and may well bring the United States into a new armed conflict—in Haiti. Five hundred U.S. Marines are on standby alert at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, poised to land on Haitian soil.

While the immediate pretext might be to defend American lives, the case is already being made that the United States, as part of the Organization of American States, should intervene militarily to restore deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power. Once before, in 1915, the United States moved to “restore democracy” to Haiti. In that instance, U.S., British, and French troops were sent in to seize the Customs House and collect debt payments. The illegal seizure of Haitian revenues was described in the United States as a “duty to insist on constitutional government.”

Not until 1934 did the United States return control of the Customs House to the Haitians and remove its troops from their soil. Today, the most undemocratic administration in U.S. history is hiding its military aims behind the facade of interventions in other nations to “preserve democracy,” just as in 1915.

George Bush is not a peace President. He is an evil and foolish man who may in fact be bringing the world into war without even quite knowing how he did it.