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Ascendency of Military

To the Editor:

The report from Seymour Topping in Taiwan in The Times of June 3 that U.S. military planners are again weighing the offensive capabilities of Chiang Kai-shek's forces takes on added significance when read with the letter by David R. Inglis in the same issue. In this he refers to the "furtive talk in some quarters of going further (with the war in Vietnam), of involving China and bombing Chinese nuclear production facilities."

It is not difficult to guess at the quarters in which this furtive talk originates. Since the military have taken over exclusive control of our policy in Vietnam it is not surprising that the limited escalation permitted so far having failed to bring about the promised solution, they would move on to more ambitious policies of escalation.

Provoking China

In fact, is not our whole stepped-up war in Vietnam a deliberate attempt to provoke a Chinese military response which would then justify a massive nuclear strike against China, followed by the shelved but never abandoned policy of returning Chiang Kai-shek to the mainland?

In the past one could hope

that such irresponsible and harebrained schemes would die a quiet death. But after what has happened this year in the Congo, Vietnam and Santo Domingo we can now expect almost anything from a government which has surrendered all initiative to irresponsible military and intelligence agencies.

Is there no brake anywhere in our Government—in the State Department, in the White House, in Congress—on reckless policies almost designed to lead us into an all-out war with China and perhaps a nuclear war with Russia? Or are we so drunk with our own power, so convinced of our own righteousness, so impatient with the search for genuine political solutions and world peace that we are ready to throw everything away on all-out, nuclear war?

Before it is too late let the President ponder the fate of some other countries in recent times who let their foreign policy be determined by overconfident and restless military establishments and intelligence agencies who had no real knowledge of the enemy and his capabilities.

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