

11/19/1967

Dear Arnoni:

Excuse me, my integrity faces no challenge at all. My integrity is nobody's business but my own. And I have little use for morality. I would sanction and probably commit every crime in every legal code and decalogue in the world to end war or the rule of the rich. I admire Lenin and Macchiavelli. Albert Schweitzer disgusts me. I am interested in facts and the defeat of our enemies. Everything else is a matter of ethics and good manners.

The paragraph you rejected back in December 1965 to an invasion of China by American forces, conceivably followed by a Russian invasion from the north, somewhat along the model of the Stalin-Hitler pact, to be finalized by a division of the country between the powers.

You rejected it on two grounds: (1) you thought it was absurd to believe in a Russian-American "desire to conquer China" and (2) you objected to the analogy with the Stalin-Hitler bind.

Your opening editorial in the same issue ends with the words: "If such horror should happen (American-Soviet collusion against Vietnam and Russian refusal to announce its readiness to defend China), the Soviets will have bought not security but a delusion. Then they may as well start granting U.S. military bases on their soil."

You say in that editorial that if the Soviets do not make clear their intention to abide by the defense treaty with China "in the immediate future", this would be necessarily taken as an admission that they do not intend to defend China.

Putting it all together, I conclude that your objections to my paragraph as you stated them did not actually involve directly the thesis of Russo-American military cooperation. This being so, you are right on this and I was wrong.

Now the problem was not and is not one of future military cooperation however. At that time, American technically trained troops were being withdrawn from Europe to Vietnam by the thousands, and we were being alarmed by constant reports of Russian troops withdrawn from Europe and being massed on the Chinese border.

Since you say you always believed that a Russo-American military cooperation existed, exists and may exist even into an attack on China (not conquest) - then, good friend, you are right and we did not disagree at all as I thought we did.

This is a pleasant thought, since I have been a fairly consistent admirer and learner of your analyses of international affairs, down to the recent Arab-Israeli conflict (where you took the field like a real knight of political truth).

Please also remember, as my letter to Sylvia shows, that I never opposed publication and discussion of Garrison's boobos. What made and makes me angry is her and your equation of Garrison with Earl Warren and Arlen Specter. Good grief!

With best wishes,

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