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Intensive Arms-Gap 'Alert' To Use TV, Ads, Generals

By George C. Wilson
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An intensive lobbying effort is about to be launched to persuade Americans that "the Communists are widening their lead every week" over the United States in military power.

Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is one of the generals who has lent his name to the drive, and Harry Treleaven, President Nixon's television adviser in the 1968 campaign, is writing the script for the TV part of the program.

The American Security Council already has sent out letters asking for money to finance the campaign called Operation Alert. The goal is for \$450,000 revolving fund to support television shows, full-page ads in 200 newspapers and one million direct mail letters.

John M. Fisher, president of the American Security Council which has offices in Washington and Boston, Va., said in his letter asking for contributions that "there is still a little time left for you to do something to help save us . . . America is in danger. Please, let me hear from you—while we still have time to save ourselves."

Fisher said senators like Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine), Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.), George McGovern (D-S.D.) and William Proxmire (D-Wis.)

"mean well. But their policies are suicide."

"That is why," Fisher continues in his letter, "Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, Gen. Lyman C. Lemnitzer, Ambassador Elbridge Dubrow and Ambassador Loy W. Henderson have agreed to head Operation Alert."

Wheeler, who left the top

military job in the U.S. armed forces on July 2, 1970, confirmed he is supporting the drive. It is the first big public campaign Wheeler has taken a leading role in since leaving the Pentagon.

"Our relative position" in military strength "is getting less favorable" with respect

See LOBBY, A4, Col. 3

Campaign Set to Support Military

LOBBY, From A1

both to the Soviet Union and China, Wheeler said in a telephone interview, "and I decided to join this effort to persuade members of Congress about the needs of national defense."

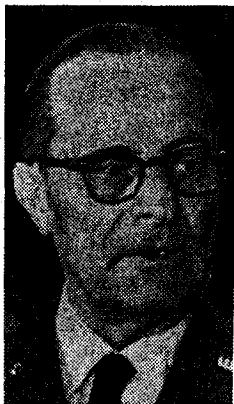
Asked if he were not an architect of the nation's present defense posture because he approved past defense budgets, Wheeler replied that he had warned Congress while serving as chairman of the Joint Chiefs that "our position was precarious."

Since leaving office, he said, Soviet and Chinese military forces have continued to increase while U.S. forces have remained comparatively steady. "You either have to have an equitable arms agreement," Wheeler said, "or build more forces."

Lending his name to what the American Security Council labels "Operation Alert: A Massive Crusade for Survival" does not represent a protest against President Nixon as commander-in-chief, Wheeler said. "I think his hands are tied" by Congress.

Wheeler, although described by Fisher as heading Operation Alert, said he does not envision appearing on television to sound the warning about the shifting strategic balance.

Treleven is "already writing the script and will supervise the actual film production" of the TV film "to alert the American people to the seriousness of the Soviet military threat," according to former ambassador Elbridge Dur-



EARLE WHEELER
... backs campaign

row, one of the co-chairmen of the American Security Council's National Strategy Committee.

Treleven told The Post he does not see the film as an attack on President Nixon's military policy "or else I wouldn't be doing it." He said the idea of the film, entitled "Only the Strong," is to present the facts "and you can make up your own mind. It's quite moderate. It's not criticizing anybody."

Treleven said he is no longer a consultant for the Interior Department but a private "communications consultant." He said the film probably will be ready for TV showing on Feb. 29, the council's target date.

At that time, President Nixon is scheduled to have just finished a week-long visit to Peking, a diplomatic initiative which he told Time Maga-

zine as "the most important decision I made this year..."

Thus, the American Security Council film and mailings could collide with Mr. Nixon's own public presentations designed to ease tensions between China and the Soviet Union. The President is slated to go to Moscow in May.

Treleven said his objective is to transform for television viewing the supplemental statement made by seven of the 16 members of Blue Ribbon Defense Panel appointed by President Nixon and Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird in July, 1969.

That supplemental statement, dated Sept. 3, 1970, contains some harsh words about both the Chinese and Soviet military buildups, including these:

"Red China maintains the world's largest ground forces and is acquiring a significant nuclear capability. Its despotic regime harbors and promotes the most virulent hatred of America."

"The hate propaganda of both the Soviet Union and Red China against the United States exceeds that leveled against each other. Each has always proclaimed the principal enemy is 'imperialistic America.' The Marxist dream of unity among Communist countries may have faded, but the Marxist purpose of communizing the world remains the goal of every Communist party."

More specifically, the minority report of the blue ribbon panel expresses alarm about "Soviet missile superiority," "Soviet advances in strategic weaponry, such as the nuclear

bomb-in-orbit and anti-ballistic-missile defense, and the growing Soviet Navy.

In the face of this threat, states the report soon to be the core of the national publicity campaign, "the mood of the people and much of the Congress is almost one of precipitous retreat from the challenge..."

Lemnitzer said in a telephone interview that he is participating in the American Security Council's drive in hopes of persuading the public that "we still have serious security problems as we wind down in Vietnam."

He is also a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs and former Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

Lemnitzer is no longer on the Defense payroll but says he promotes the need for NATO from an office provided for him at the Pentagon.

Fisher in his letter complained that "our leaders must contend with hostile media" and that the council therefore must "saturate the media with the grim facts because, tragically, nobody else is doing so."

SANE, a lobby for arms control, has started a counter-drive. In a letter to newspaper editors mailed on Tuesday, SANE said the American Security Council's \$100,000 TV film is based on a report which fails to measure comparative strengths in terms of deliverable warheads — "the most meaningful measure of nuclear capability" and one that shows both the United States and the Soviet Union "have long since achieved overkill."