

# Doctor's Orders

A Commentary

By Nicholas von Hoffman

The sight of President Truthful balancing on the edge of his dish may be so horrifyingly fascinating that Dr. Kissinger could slip into his new job at the State Department without having to answer some very serious questions. Just because Herr Henry obviously has all his parts in working order, and just because he is a charming, terribly likable fellow is no reason to let him get confirmed by the Senate without putting a few foreign policy basics to him.

That's not going to be easy. Henry is the Happy Hamster of reasonable accommodation, the gemütlichkeit kid of bipartisan foreign policy unity. Those who would go after the Harvard doctor will do it because he was the architect of the Christmas bombing atrocities, a tangent that nobody is interested in any more, even if we should be. Yet what Henry has done, no matter how dreadful, is less important than what Henry plans to do.

Henry says he and his boss plan to make world peace, and, if you don't believe them, ask radio Moscow. It agrees, and so does everybody else. Detente is in the air, and you have to be a war criminal, a Lockheed stockholder or a general to have any misgivings. Either that or you have to be a Russian concerned about human rights.

Such a Russian is Andrei D. Sakharov, a physicist who helped create their hydrogen bomb. The other day, this man, at great risk to himself and to his family, dared to call a Western style press conference to warn us against detente on Soviet terms. "It might lead to very hard consequences inside our country," he said, "and contaminate the whole world with an antidemocratic character . . . It would encourage a closed country, where everything happens unseen from foreign eyes. No one should dream of having such a neighbor, the more so if that neighbor is armed to the teeth."

These are hard words for those of us who have considered the arms race a species of insanity, but another species of insanity is a close, world-dominating alliance with a group of men who can only be described as unregenerate tyrants. Somebody has got to ask Dr. Kissinger how far he and his boss are prepared to go with the Soviets. He and Nixon have made a number of significant concessions in the area of trade and arms limitations, and you have to take risks for peace just as you do for war. Give them high marks for that, but now the time has come to ask what we're getting in exchange.

Sakharov has come out in favor of Sen. Henry Jackson's amendment that would make granting the Russians most-favored-nation trade status contingent on the Soviets eliminating restrictions on their citizens' immigration to other countries. Those of us who are leery of intervening in another nation's internal affairs have opposed this idea, but maybe we better have another look at it. If we're going to climb into bed with somebody we have a right to insist they don't have cooties.

If Russians can leave Russia at will, that will be a powerful incentive for the Soviets to run their country in such a way that their people will want to stay there and the process of democratization and openness which Sakharov reminds us is necessary for world peace and freedom may begin.

It is this kind of question that our sexy Henry should address himself to. As our foreign policy is presently tending it seems as though we choose between near total war and endorsing, if not embracing, the political and social institutions of Moscow and Peking. Few people in Washington at the time of the Brezhnev visit will forget all those red flags decorating the city.

President Truthful and the Happy Hamster led us unwillingly through four full years of war against a minor Communist power which apparently enjoys a considerable amount of popular support. If the North Vietnamese were so bad then how much worse the Russians who rule by simple force over a score of nations and peoples? This is no idle baiting question if you recall Sakharov's words.

Kissinger should also be closely questioned on the topic of Sweden. By what logic do we enjoy better relations with Moscow than we do with Stockholm? The Russians supplied the North Vietnamese with munitions, credits and every other kind of help short of troops; the Swedes merely denounced our idiot war and gave hospitality to a few miserable deserters, and yet we're next to having broken diplomatic relations with this country whose only sin may be selling us a few too many defective Volvos.

In the days before Herr Henry and detente, Richard Nixon used to speak of peace *and* freedom, but now he usually speaks only of peace and that is not enough.

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