

NYTimes

• AUG 20 1971

Admiral on the Leash

To the Editor:

Adm. U. S. Grant Sharp's Aug. 6 Op-Ed article criticizing both The New York Times version of the Pentagon papers and the restrictions placed on the air war against North Vietnam reflects one of the chief fallacies in the thinking of the military mind: The inability to understand the chain of events set into motion by the excessive use of power.

The unleashing of the Austrian generals at the beginning of World War I against Serbia brought in the Russians. Unleashing the German generals against Russia brought in the French. Unleashing the German generals against France via Belgium brought in the English and ultimately the Americans. Unleashing General MacArthur against all of North Korea brought in the Chinese—who had warned us repeatedly against such action.

What appears to be wise military strategy turns out to be disastrous national policy: By 1967, Peking had stated in no uncertain terms that it would not stand by and watch North Vietnam be destroyed. Thank God we didn't unleash Admiral Sharp.

TOM STONIER

Bronx, N. Y., Aug. 6, 1971

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