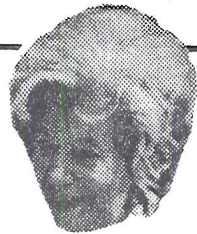


Our Hamstrung President



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Washington

JIMMY CARTER and Jerry Ford held press conferences within hours of each other, and there was hardly "a dime's worth of difference," as George Wallace used to say, between them on foreign policy.

During the campaign, especially in their debates, you would have thought they were poles apart — on arms sales, the Communist menace and Cold War. But now that Carter is in office, he is following in Ford's footsteps, selling arms in the Mideast, heating up the Cold War and seeking to lift the arms embargo against Turkey, just as Gerald Ford tried to do.

A reporter asked, after his packed Washington session, if Ford felt vindicated in his foreign policy by current events.

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"**WHY DON'T** you write that?" he asked cheerfully. Ford took great pleasure in saying that he supported the controversial warplanes sales to the Middle East — although he said that he wanted even more than the extra 20 jets for Israel. He noted that Carter had picked up where he had left off in trying to persuade Congress to sell arms to Turkey, and on the same grounds, which is that Turkey would be ever so much nicer about Cyprus if it had more U.S. hardware.

And Jimmy Carter, he suggested, would do just what he had done in Africa if he could.

Did he think, he was asked, that the Carter

administration was moving towards his position on Angola?

"You can't help but come to the conclusion that he would like more flexibility," Ford said with great satisfaction.

"The President is hamstrung," he noted regretfully.

The person who tied up Jimmy Carter is Senator Dick Clark (Dem.-Iowa), the knowledgeable chairman of the African affairs subcommittee and author of an amendment outlawing any further covert CIA activity in Angola.

The extent of the activity, which was denied at the time, is detailed in a book called "In Search of Enemies," which was written by John Stockwell, former chief of the CIA Angola task force.

Clark argued successfully with the Senate that "we are dangerously close to an open-ended confrontation with the Soviet Union in a country that is of no real strategic concern to either country."

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IN HIS PRESS conference in Chicago, the President said he would "obey the law" and has "no present intention" to seek a rollback of the Clark amendment. But he was plainly pleased by Ford's supportive comments about the need to untie the Clark bindings, and spoke of a "long conversation" with his predecessor on the subject.