

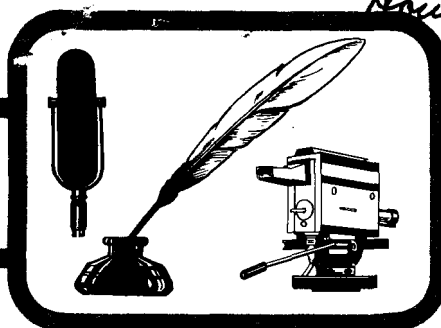
The original documents are located in Box D33, folder “Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH, October 21, 1972” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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CONGRESSMAN
GERALD R. FORD
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**NEWS
RELEASE**

--FOR RELEASE AT 7 P.M. SATURDAY--
October 21, 1972

Excerpts from a Speech by Rep. Gerald R. Ford at Bowling Green State University,
Bowling Green, Ohio.

I am deeply convinced that a victory for George McGovern on Nov. 7 would seriously damage chances for world peace. It could, in fact, ultimately lead to World War III.

I say that because there is no question in my mind that George McGovern has a distorted view of foreign affairs. He would take the United States on a course which would destroy the foundation already laid for the building of world peace.

It is clear that McGovern believes the Cold War developed as a result of unwise and belligerent actions by the United States since World War II. He believes these actions appeared threatening to the Soviet Union and that it was because of this that the Cold War ensued.

This is the only apparent explanation for McGovern's demand that our national defense budget be cut by \$30 billion.

This appears to be the only explanation for McGovern's insistence that we reduce U. S. troop strength in Europe--unilaterally--by more than half.

It amazes me that a Presidential candidate of one of the two major parties in this country would urge not only the abandonment of South Vietnam to Communist aggression but a virtual pullout of U. S. forces from Europe at a time when the Middle East writhes in crisis and our European allies are pressing the Soviet Union for a mutual reduction of forces in Europe.

Should Sen. McGovern be elected, any prospect of negotiating a mutual reduction of forces with the Soviet Union would go a-glimmering. The Soviets wouldn't negotiate something that had already been accomplished unilaterally.

George McGovern parades around in the robes of the peace-maker.

How would he make peace? He would make peace in Vietnam by accepting North Vietnam's terms and, in effect, turning South Vietnam over to the Communists.

He would make peace elsewhere in the world by chopping our defense budget to the point where our only alternatives in the face of aggression would be surrender or nuclear war.

Nearly every military cutback McGovern proposes would force increased

(more)

reliance on nuclear weapons as the deterrent or response to Soviet aggression. He would fall back on the policy of massive retaliation which John Foster Dulles espoused, a policy wisely modified by the late President John F. Kennedy.

The policy of massive retaliation--absent the possibility of a conventional response--would leave this nation with no alternatives but surrender or nuclear war, as I have said.

It is for just this reason that the United States has developed a capacity for flexible response--and at considerable cost.

In view of Sen. McGovern's proposal to slash the defense forces that make possible our policy of flexible response, I can only conclude that he simply does not understand foreign policy and he certainly does not know how to deal with the Communist world. He lacks, it must be said, an understanding of power and its uses.

President Nixon, by contrast, knows how to employ power and understands the Communist mind.

This is why President Nixon has won the Cold War as we have come to know it since World War II.

It was because Richard Nixon insisted on keeping the United States strong that we were able to prevail in the Cold War and to hasten the disintegration of the world Communist movement.

President Nixon won the Cold War because of his steadfast adherence to the policy of seeking peace through strength and his ability to remain flexible in international negotiations.

For anyone to compare Richard Nixon with Hitler is the most shocking kind of absurdity. My own belief is that Richard Nixon will come to be recognized as one of the greatest peacemakers of all time, a man incomparably skilled in international diplomacy and the game of war and peace.

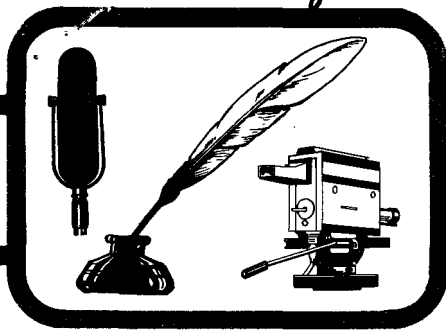
Richard Nixon has moderated our previously rigid Cold War positions. And in every case he achieved a gain because all of his negotiations involved the principle of reciprocity. Each side gave up something but each side gained something.

The Nixon foreign policy consists of a carefully balanced mixture of moderation on the one hand and commanding military strength on the other.

It is a cruel world we live in. What Richard Nixon recognizes--and George McGovern does not--is that in that world the United States must remain militarily strong or World War III may await us.

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