

How the Committee Will Operate In Its Own Words

Nov. 11 — The following is excerpted from the statement released at a press conference today by the Committee on the Present Danger. The group bills itself as "An Independent Citizens Committee for the Peace, Security, and Liberty of the Nation."

Our Committee is wholly independent and nonpartisan, with no political axe to grind. We welcome the participation and support of Democrats, Republicans and Independents....

Our basic purpose is to facilitate a national discussion of the foreign and national security policies of the United States directed toward a secure peace with freedom. Our primary views are contained in the attached declaration of principles, "Common Sense and the Common Danger," (printed in NSIPS No. 44 —ed.) and all future statements of the Committee will be clearly consistent with it.

Our effort is not a one-shot affair. We shall stay in business until we are no longer needed.

Our principal activity will be educational. Although we will not refrain from expressing our own viewpoint and will not prevent persons affiliated with us from expressing or advocating their own viewpoints we will seek to assure that our judgments are based upon a full fair and objective factual foundation and that this foundation is made known to the audiences whom we will be addressing....

Many of us have worked with one or more of the last seven Presidents in formulating and executing foreign and national security policy....

We recognize that the responsibility of the United States in today's changing world cannot be easily or cheaply met. We may be involved for a long time in expensive painful and frustrating situations — and the solutions of yesterday will not suffice for today and tomorrow. That is the price we must pay for freedom and for avoiding a third World War. Peace is not a cut-rate commodity. We must be wary of oversimplified and easy solutions to complex international problems.

... We may be obliged to express support for or opposition to specific legislative proposals....

... We will encourage conduct and participate in conferences and seminars across the nation involving as many sectors of society as our resources permit. We shall strive to provide occasions speakers and materials for the rational exchange of views based upon facts and history. We will make our findings available to the public through pamphlets and articles and possibly through advertising in the media.

We will avail ourselves to the maximum extent consistent with our time and resources of all media of communication for the exposition and consideration of our findings.

The Committee on the Present Danger has set a big task for itself. We are fully aware how difficult it will be to accomplish....

Carter's 100 Biggest War Criminals

A Complete Roster of the Committee on Present Danger

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Kirkpatrick, Jeane Professor of Government, Georgetown University

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Lefever, Ernest Professor of International Relations and Director, Ethics and Public Policy Program, Georgetown University

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Ward, Martin J. President, Plumbers' and Pipe Fitters' International Union; Vice President, AFL-CIO
Ward, Robert E. Director, Center for Research in International Studies, Stanford University
Whalen, Richard J. Author and Journalist
Wilcox, Francis O. Director General, Atlantic Council of the United States; Former Dean, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Assistant Secretary of State, Chief of Staff, U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Wolfe, Bertram D. Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Russian History, University of California at Davis; Senior Research Fellow of the Hoover Institution, Stanford University
Zumwalt, Elmo R. Admiral, U.S.N. (Ret.); Former Chief of Naval Operations

Carter Advisor Owen Recommends "Surprise Attack: It Usually Works"

Nov. 10 — The following article, "Surprise Attack: It Usually Works," appeared opposite the editorial page of today's Washington Post. The author, Henry Owen, is Director of Foreign Policy Studies at the Brookings Institution, a policy-making body for the Rockefeller family and Gov. James Earl Carter.

The House International Relations Committee recently released testimony given to that committee four days before the 1950 North Korean attack by then Assistant Secretary of State Dean Rusk, suggesting that there was no indication of impending attack. This has been heralded as evidence of official stupidity. Without knowing of the evidence at the time, I submit that it is nothing of the sort. It is the normal condition before military attack.

The question is of more than academic interest. A key issue being debated in regard to current NATO planning is whether

the prime emphasis in NATO's force structure should be placed on immediate readiness, as Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) and others suggest, or on long-term strength, as most NATO leaders recommend. It is difficult to have both, given the limited European resources available. The outcome of this debate hinges, in part, on whether there will be a few days or a few weeks' warning. History suggests that both expectations are wrong: There may be no warning at all.

Successful surprise was a feature not only of the 1950 Korean attack but of most major wars in this century: the Japanese attacks on Port Arthur in 1905 and on Pearl Harbor in 1941; the German invasions of Belgium in 1914 and 1940, and of Russia in 1941; and the Egyptian and Syrian attack on Israel in 1973.

...Finally, in all these cases, relations between the countries involved had deteriorated sharply, so that military preparations by one side seemed a normal course of action, rather than a prelude to surprise attack. In this circumstance, the fact that an effective response to warnings of attack required costly precautionary measures weighed heavily...

It is hard to conceive of a sharp Soviet buildup in Europe, no matter how accurately reported by satellite and other intelligence, that would not be clouded by some of the circumstances described above...

Since we cannot count on advance warning, in Central Europe any more than any place else, prime emphasis should be placed on strengthening NATO's capacity to fight in the first days of a short intense war, rather than on building up to reserve strength, if a choice must be made. This is the lesson to be drawn from history, of which Mr. Rusk's testimony is a vivid reminder.

Ambassador Scranton Calls For Detente, Peace, and Development

Nov. 11 — What follows are excerpts from a feature article, signed by Ford-appointed U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations William Scranton in yesterday's edition of the Caracas, Venezuela news daily El Nacional. The article, entitled "Foreign Policy and the North American Ideal," was released exclusively to El Nacional by Ambassador Scranton.

This year, which is the bicentennial of our nation, is the opportunity for the U.S. to make a special effort to reappraise and perhaps reorient our national life and in this way to affirm the values with which this nation was founded....

In these days, in a world dominated by tension between the nuclear superpowers, any event on any continent could alter the system of global equilibrium. The probable alternative of peace is no longer just war, but mutual annihilation. As a consequence, one of the principle objectives of our foreign policy is the maintenance of peace, the reduction of suspicions and rivalries.

We must work with nations governed by all types of systems to replace conflicts with dialogue and reciprocal interchange around commerce and economics, on questions of arms reduction and toward increased global security and the establishment of standards of human rights.

These themes go far beyond political party affairs....

The idea of liberty is the crucial, life-giving basis of our constitution and our people.

The object of our constitutional liberty has been the individual, his energies and his creative capacities, and how to better free these energies. Perhaps above all this has been the principal theme of our history, as much internally as in our relations with other countries. Freedom has been the driving force of our amazing history of economic development. The driving force behind our bloody, though necessary, Civil

War. The Civil War took us out of our isolation and placed us on the international stage. It was for freedom that we went to war, especially in the North American Revolution and World War II. We have made peace with liberty the fundamental basis of our thought. Even today, this continues to be the most powerful argument in favor of our social system....

In other parts of the world the relation between the citizen and the state is profoundly different. In general terms there are those that sustain two different points of view in regards to human rights. One of them is the Soviet system and the other that of the developing nations. In the Soviet system all real respect for human rights meets strong opposition from the basic Soviet dogma which says that the individual human rights interfere in a planned and directed society, and that only a central political authority can adequately guide economic development and guarantee an equal distribution of property....The constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics offers protection to the majority of human rights described in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but only does so within the context of the 'fundamental rights and duties of Soviet citizens,' with emphasis on the duty of every Soviet citizen to abstain from all activity that would be contrary to the interests of the state....

Among the developing nations, there are some ideas of human rights which are different from ours. Some nations recently emancipated from colonial domination preserved the systems which they had inherited. Others however have adopted a new ideology — that of development. With the majority of their people in lamentable conditions of life, the most pressing need appears to them as principally material and technical and that progress can only be measured in terms of economic growth.

Rumsfeld: Ford Is Still The President!

Nov. 5 — The following is excerpted from a press conference held yesterday at the Pentagon by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld:

Alan (Woods, ASD-PA) and I talked just a few minutes ago and decided that it might be useful for me to come down and just to open it up and then Alan can respond to a variety of questions. We had an Armed Forces Policy Council Meeting this morning that I guess led to my coming down which therein we discussed the transition and I thought I just might touch on several of the points that I made there....

I talked specifically with them and discussed the fact that the President remains President through noon, January 20, and has the responsibilities of that office; that it was my intention to continue in office until that time; that the President's desire was

to see that we strive to achieve the best transition in history and that probably the best guideline as to how that could be done, given the fact that it is, of course, an unusual period, one that occurs only periodically; the best guideline would be to think through how it is you would like to have things arranged were you entering into the responsibilities of government, in this case the Department of Defense, needless to say, to do our job and fulfil our responsibilities between now and January 20, but simultaneously to try to see that we think about the circumstance that the individuals who will be coming in will be facing. We will be therefore obviously doing our jobs and at the same time striving to achieve that goal so that it will be as smooth as possible for them and that they'll be in the best possible position to make the kind of judgments that they'll be faced with....

Q: Mr. Secretary, is the gist of this that on such issues as the Carter people want to have an effect, they will?

A: The gist of it is this, to put it in my words, that we recognize that we have an obligation through January 20. We have — the President has — and now I have explicitly stated that our goal is to see that this is a transition that is fully in the interest of the American people; that it's handled smoothly and that we do our utmost to see that the people at that point where they're designated and at that point where some contributions, by way of areas of interest or what have you, are made; that they have every opportunity to do that. We obviously will have to make judgments as to how we handle those issues as we go along. We're now in the process of trying to get some listings so we can be prepared to discuss them. How anyone would be decided is an entirely open question, but it will be consistent with those two general guiding principles that I've outlined....

Q: As I understand your remarks, sir, you're suggesting that perhaps the Carter team could have an impact on the budget that's being prepared now, if they felt strongly in certain areas.

A: No, my understanding of that is that President Ford presents a budget, and he would do that. We would make those judgments, but then we would of course be available to supply information about that so that they can begin to make their judgments, but they will have, I would assume, I can't speak for them, but I would assume they would have some thoughts as to how they would want to then present to the Congress their view of the world as represented by the budget documents.

Q: Mr. Secretary, do they get in here between allowing these guys to run beside you and watch what you do and get a feel for the way the decisions are made and what the issues are?

A: If you'll reflect on how I've commented on that, I've said it now three times that we fully understand that we have the responsibility between now and January 20th. That's how the Constitution works and so forth....