

## Thatcher calls the tune...

*Taking as her premise the "balance of power" doctrine which the British oligarchy has employed to provoke most of the major wars of the past three centuries, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher delivered the following remarks to the Foreign Policy Association in New York Dec. 18:*

We face a decade—I have called it "the dangerous decade"—in which the challenges to our security and to our way of life may if anything be more acute than in the 1970s. The response of Western nations and their leaders will need to be firm, calm and concerted....

The *fact* of global interdependence—I apologise for the jargon—is nothing new. Four hundred years ago South American gold and silver helped to cause inflation in Europe—an early example of the evils of excess money supply....

But the popular *perception* of interdependence lagged far behind the fact. When I was in my teens a British Prime Minister could still refer to Czechoslovakia as "a far-away country" of whose quarrels the British people knew nothing; and an American President could still experience difficulty in persuading his people of the need to concern themselves with a European war.

### East-West relations

The immediate threat from the Soviet Union is military rather than ideological. The threat is not only to our security in Europe and North America but also, both directly and by proxy, in the Third World. I have often spoken about the military challenge which the West faces today.

Meanwhile they expand their armed forces on land, sea and air. They continually improve the quality of their armaments. They and



their allies outnumber us in Europe. Their men, their ships, and their aircraft appear ever more regularly in parts of the world where they have never been seen before. Their Cuban and East German proxies likewise.

...The Russians have the weapons and are getting more of them. It is simple prudence for the West to respond. We in Britain intend to do that to the best of our ability and at every level including the strategic. President Carter has shown that he intends to do likewise. And the Alliance last week decided to modernize its long-range theatre nuclear weapons. This in due course will help to balance the new and sophisticated weapons the Russians already have targetted on Europe. The strategic power of the U.S.A. in the Western Alliance remains paramount. But I would underline the contribution of the European members of NATO....

I have been attacked by the Soviet government for arguing that the West should put itself in a position to negotiate from strength ... I am not talking about negotiations from a position of superiority. What I am seeking is a negotiation in which we and they start from a position of balance; and if both sides can negotiate, genuinely, to maintain that balance at lower levels, I shall be well content. It is in that spirit that I approach the proposals which have recently been made by President Brezhnev and others.

## ...and Carter is dancing

*President Jimmy Carter delivered the following remarks before the Business Council at the White House Dec. 12:*

For nearly 20 years, the Soviet Union has been increasing its real defense spending by three or four percent each year. In contrast, our own defense spending has declined in real terms every year from 1968 through 1976....

As in the past, when the winds of change threaten to arouse storms of conflict, we must be prepared to join our friends and Allies in resisting threats to stability and peace.

The steady buildup by the Soviets, and their growing inclination to rely on military power to exploit turbulent situations, call for a calm, deliberate and sustained American response....

With American leadership, NATO also took the crucial step of adopting a bold long-term defense program. That program is helping us increase our capacity to deter or defeat any surprise attack against our European Allies.

We are also taking steps to redress the balance in Theater Nuclear Forces.

In the early 1960s, the U.S. removed its medium-range missiles from Western Europe. We could do this then because there was overwhelming U.S. strategic superiority. But the Soviet Union did not show similar restraint. The accelerating development of their ... SS-20 missile is a major escalation in theater nuclear armaments....

In the SALT II negotiations, we carefully protected our freedom to correct this weakness. Now NATO is moving toward strengthening its nuclear weapons to offset actual Soviet deployments. Then, on the basis of strength, we can negotiate with the Warsaw Pact to reduce nuclear weapons in the European theater.