

Editorial

Conquered during an election year?

The Soviet Union has begun a rapid "breakout" from the Khrushchev-Kissinger 1972 "SALT I" Treaty which Henry Kissinger alleged to have banned anti-missile defense systems from both sides. In repeated testimony before congressional committees in early March, administration spokesmen have finally admitted, with a dreamlike dread and anxiety, that they know the details documenting this breakout.

In fact, the nation's leading defense scientist stated on Feb. 1 that the United States is *presently* unable to target the city of Moscow with ICBMs or submarine-launched missiles. The system of interceptor missiles around Moscow, now in its third generation with the long-range and highly accurate SA-12, is no token system but an effective defense of that city against nuclear-missile attack. During 1983, as the Soviet high command put the "sophisticated Western man" Yuri Andropov to sleep, they directed that this anti-missile interceptor system be extended nationally. They finalized construction of a huge, inland "perimeter acquisition" battle-management radar, whose name accurately describes its function, to coordinate the long-range acquisition perimeter radars around the perimeters of the Warsaw Pact, in order to pick up attacking ICBMs coming from any direction and acquire them as targets for interceptors, at distances of up to 1,500 miles out over the horizon. "The Moscow and Krasnoyarsk radars alone could defend more than 20% of the total number of Soviet ICBM warheads," reported *Defense Daily* on March 13, crossgridding experts' congressional testimony on the subject.

On November 30, 1983, the CIA delivered a report to a meeting of the National Security Council demonstrating that, with at least ground-based interceptor systems, the Russians had the capability to thoroughly break out of Kissinger's treaty *during 1984*. A frightened White House official "leaked" the report to *Aviation Week*, stating that the Soviet command's judgment was that, during 1984, this direct move to seize strategic superiority over the United States by deploying a nationwide interceptor system to protect Russian military targets from U.S. retaliatory strikes, could be done *without serious reaction from the White House because it was an election year*.

The Russians could soon secure an abrupt victory in the arms race. They continue large-scale expenditures and efforts on far more advanced energy- and particle-beam weapons systems of anti-missile defense. As a sign of this breakout, the Federation of American Scientists (FAS), a KGB-linked disarmament group, has published a 30-page "fact sheet" calling for a stop to the U.S. beam weapons program, and attempting at great length to deny the Soviet ABM breakout, calling it "merely legally exploiting an unforeseen SALT loophole."

It is under these circumstances, then, that Henry Kissinger is pulling one more American President into "the back channel," to take dictation of one final Russian "arms-control agreement" which that President may humbly and unilaterally agree to follow "in order to get re-elected." The FAS "fact sheet" arrogantly stated the Soviets' election-year rules. "Few, if any of the alleged violations can be proven," and the administration "should dig in and pursue hard-nosed private consultation and negotiations" and "strengthen existing agreements."

Recent administration spokesmen testifying before Congress the third week in March on the President's Strategic Defense Initiative have begun by citing the Soviet breakout and then promising that the United States will merely do research for five more years on ABM beam weapons systems, in order not to violate the ABM Treaty until the Soviets agree to revise it. Disarmament Democrats responded, predictably, that if it's only a research program, it's too big—let's cut it! As of now, the judgment of the anonymous White House official last November is being borne out: The Soviet command is confirming that nothing it does will provoke a serious U.S. response during this election year.

The United States still has a chance to survive as a free republic, and the technological capabilities to exceed the Russian ABM breakout. The frightened bureaucratic sleepwalkers from the Pentagon who told Congress this month that "we cannot catch the Soviets on anti-missile defense for a decade," must be given real leadership to break the grip of Kissinger's KGB policies.