

Editorial

'Peace in our time'

In an interview with *EIR*, Edward Campbell—the chief domestic economist with Brown Brothers Harriman—revealed his and presumably the New York banking community's, scenario for disarming the NATO alliance. He called for radical cuts in the U.S. standing army as well as the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Europe.

He outlined the kind of campaign which President Bush should take to the American people in order to rally support for the proposed betrayal of the NATO allies. Unbelievably, what he proposed was that Bush should assume the mantle of the discredited Neville Chamberlain—in words as well as deeds. Bush he said, should put forth the slogan: "Peace in our time."

Of course, at the same time Chamberlain was politically appeasing Hitler, the British were frantically building up their military capabilities. This is the direct opposite of the neo-Chamberlain insanity afflicting Washington. For people like Campbell, and Robert McNamara—who also shared his views with *EIR*—the primary issue is not the strategic balance but the perspective of cost-cutting.

McNamara complained that the simple cutback of 20% of U.S. force strength in Europe will not be cost-effective, since there are costs involved in bringing the troops home, and in maintaining them in the United States—since European subsidies will no longer be available for their support. His solution is a 50% cut over six to eight years, which would, he says, save the United States \$150 billion. Never mind if the Soviets take over Europe in the meantime!

Naturally, this insanity in Washington is leading the Soviets to push their advantage. Foreign Minister Shevardnadze is now demanding that the United States negotiate a ceiling on the allowable military strength of the French and British. The United States and the Soviets would in effect, try to give France and Britain the same treatment which is typically meted out to the Third World, by imposing a superpower settlement upon them.

Helmut Schmidt's circles, such as the German Atlanticist Theo Sommer, have gone one step further along the path to suicide. Sommer is proposing a fourth zero

option, in which the United States would withdraw all troops from Europe.

At Munich, even Neville Chamberlain would have blushed at the equivalent, in his day, of this present level of insanity. Fortunately, Chamberlain's failure in judgment was not fatal. The United States had the economic and moral potential to defeat Hitler's military effort. Today the economic and technological capabilities of the United States are being systematically stripped due to the same kind of blind-sidedness which is shown by policy makers on the strategic front. Even Henry Kissinger and Jimmy Carter, who seem to be in the forefront of shaping this New Yalta environment, cannot wish to see the world held captive under the Soviet boot—no more than Neville Chamberlain wished to hand Great Britain over to Adolf Hitler. Yet the present long-term mismanagement of the U.S. economy combined with drastic political appeasement of the Soviets will make this a foregone conclusion, unless moves are quickly taken to reverse the situation.

Even more significant is the question of a nation's will to fight. Despite the America Firsters who did not want to see a repeat of the mistakes of World War I, and even some pro-fascist sentiment in the United States from the circles around the Dulles family, Americans fought World War II with high morale. The war was fought with enthusiasm, by most Americans who shared the conviction, albeit vague, that they were freeing the world's people from fascist slavery. The dangers of such a superficial approach, combined with the willful whitewash of the Stalin regime, became all too obvious in the postwar period.

The United States won the war but lost the peace; nevertheless she did win the war. Even this would not be possible today, with the legacy of the policies of McNamara and the Harriman crowd who engineered the defeats in Korea and Vietnam.

Edward Campbell is right on one count. The United States desperately needs a leader who can rally the country behind a vision. His proposed slogan, "Peace in our time," would presage the sure destruction of Western civilization.