

TRICKING MEDIA INTO TRAP

Red Propaganda Is Not News

A continuing source of amazement is how small, primitive North Vietnam and her clique of Communists can constantly upstage the United States of America in the propaganda war.

Perhaps the low point of the upstaging occurred in recent weeks when the Communists exploited individuals to pursue their aims, contrary to the Geneva Convention observed by all civilized nations.

One such instance was the parade of captives from the USS Pueblo and their subsequent so-called "confessions" couched in the weird dialectic of Communists. It was not a verbiage any American would use seriously, yet unfortunately the contrary impression was conveyed in far too many instances.

Another nadir recently was the vicious, underhanded and cruel television exposure given to Lt. Cmdr. John S. McCain III, a captured American pilot. The film came straight from Hanoi through a French leftist source, yet it was used here. The Communists planned well. Lt. Cmdr. McCain's father is commander in chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe, and Hanoi was aware of the impact its television offering would get.

And the purpose is all too clear. The film was intended to undermine the morale of all military families whose menfolk are in Vietnam or who may go there soon.

There are many other ways in which Americans in high places and key positions fall into the Communist prop-

aganda trap intended to discourage Americans from continuing the war in Vietnam.

One such ploy is the myth that Russia holds a key to negotiations. Russia is pouring an estimated \$8 billion into North Vietnam to fight the United States and says plainly she is helping the Viet Cong. Yet we minuet with Moscow and a national magazine even publishes hard-line propaganda by Premier Alexei Kosygin.

Far too many people in key places parrot the Hanoi propaganda line that the United States cannot win the war. American hope is raised and dashed with regularity over the orchestrated Communist gambit of dangling a peace hope, then negating it in a burst of virulence.

As President Johnson recently said, if the Communists are really interested in peace, all they have to do to begin discussion is to say: "Geneva is the place and tomorrow is the time."

The tactics of Hanoi in the word war are, of course, cut from the cloth of Dienbienphu strategy. Communists seek to discourage public opinion here because they cannot win on the battlefield. Some media in this country unfortunately accept bold Communist propaganda willy-nilly as news.

It is a trap Americans, particularly some in the communications media, should avoid stepping into repeatedly. We would like to believe that the kind of person P. T. Barnum said was born every minute does not exist as an opinion leader in the United States.

Taxation by Stages

The plan to extend the existing "temporary" federal excise taxes on telephone calls and new automobiles suffers from the fact that it is part of a piecemeal approach to the budget.

The House Ways and Means Committee has recommended an extended period of delay in the scheduled reduction of these taxes. This is looking at the President's budget in isolated doses.

The excise taxes, when originally imposed last year, were slated to be reduced April 1. The 10 per cent tax on telephone calls should drop to 7 per cent and the 7 per cent levy on new autos back to 2 per cent, with a subsequent reduction to 1 per cent.

If Congress follows the committee's recommendations, both taxes will be extended to Jan. 1, 1970, and produce an additional \$1.1 billion revenue this fiscal year.

But the broad view of the whole tax program should be the congressional attitude. The excise tax is a whipping boy, which has obviously disadvantaged certain sections of industry. But now it serves the very timely and useful reminder to the public that "temporary" taxes nearly always manage to assume permanence. The 10 per cent surtax on income still sought by the President is another in this "temporary" category.

The question is not so much the excise tax and its extension or reduction at this stage. What is needed is a sufficiently wide ranging examination of the whole budget program to ascertain the best — and not the most expedient — budget steps to be taken.

Presidential Election

It is presidential election year in Cyprus, as in the United States. There are, however, some differences.

The 600,000 people of the Mediterranean island — less than the population of San Diego — go to the polls tomorrow, not in November.

Four-fifths of the people are of Greek descent, and the remainder mostly Turkish. Periodically they clash, resulting in bloodshed there.

There is one other significant difference. They have only one presidential candidate, incumbent Archbishop Makarios, who has held the position since the island became a republic in 1960.

The only real similarity between the two nations — apart from election year — is that before independence both were governed from London.

Highway Fog Peril

Each year around this time the coastal fogs creep in to remind us that highway safety has a more fickle factor than usual. The perils of inept or drunken drivers, unsound vehicles and sheer carelessness find a companion in danger in the shape of the treacherous mist.

We are still no nearer to finding a solution to the sudden blanket which can envelop fast moving traffic with terrifying effects.

Warning devices during fog, ranging from special radio messages to flashing signal lights, have been suggested. But nothing materializes. Studies are, however, under way to lift airport fog.

Defensive driving — against fog or the idiot motorist — is still the most practical answer.

ART BUCHWALD SAYS:

Let's Try a Rearmament Conference

Perhaps the solution for peace may be that instead of nations holding "disarmament" conferences, they could meet to discuss "rearmament." If they could agree on how much they were going to rearm, some of the suspicion about disarmament could disappear.

Let us suppose that Jordan and Israel met in Geneva to discuss the problem.

"We're getting 50 F-100s from the United States," the Jordanians say. "That's perfectly all right with us," the Israelis reply. "We're getting 50 American F-5s. They're much faster and can also carry rockets."

"Is that so? Maybe we should get F-5s as well."

"Well, we don't want to tell you how to run your defense, but you're crazy to take the F-100s if you can get the F-5s," the Israelis say.

"That's good of you to warn us. By the way, our intelligence reports indicate that those new American tanks you bought won't stand up against the antitank guns the Americans gave us."

"No kidding? Where are the weaknesses?" the Israelis ask.

"In the turret. Maybe you could add some armor in the turret to compensate for the deficiency."

"I think we could. Oh, by the way, we read in the newspapers that the Jordanians are buying some 105 artillery guns. They're pretty expensive, you know."

"You don't think we should buy them?"

"Well, we looked over your military budget, and you would be much better off investing your money in mortars. There is a new AK mortar we purchased and we're quite satisfied with it."

"Of course, why didn't we think of mortars?" the Jordanians say. "Do you have any dope on antiaircraft missiles?"

"Be careful about which missile you select. The Americans have sold us an antimissile-missile system. That's pretty good, and you'll just be throwing your dough away on an antiaircraft missile."

TODAY'S TEXT

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.—Luke 10:2.

"That's really a valuable piece of information. Why are you being so helpful?"

"Well, we'd rather you get your stuff from the United States. If you're dissatisfied with what you get from the Americans, you might turn to the Soviet Union for help."

"By the way," the Jordanians say, "one of our biggest items is the cost of shipping the hardware to Jordan. Sometimes when Israel doesn't have a full shipload, perhaps we could put some of it on your ships. After all, it's going to practically the same place."

"I don't know if this makes sense or not," a Jordanian adds, "but if your minister of defense and our minister of defense could fly over to Washington together, then they could lay out their needs and there would be coordination on what we bought."

"I'll bring it up with General Dayan. It could save us a lot of trouble. The beauty of the arrangement is if one or the other of us runs out of spare parts for the American equipment, we could borrow it from the other."

'Just As I Thought!'



Bob Stevens
Copyist Newspapers

THE ALLEN-SCOTT REPORT:

A-Weapons May Be Used If North Korea Invades

Keep your eye on Korea rather than Vietnam in the continuing stormy debate on the possible use of tactical nuclear weapons in the Far East.

Should North Korean forces launch a new invasion across the 38th Parallel, the contingency plans of the Joint Chiefs of Staff call for use of these battlefield atomic weapons to defend South Korea and the 50,000 American troops there.

U.S. jet aircraft carrying these nuclear bombs already are stationed at advance air bases in South Korea and Okinawa and on an aircraft carrier operating in the Sea of Japan.

None of these nuclear weapons, despite their on-the-alert status, can be fired until approval comes from President Johnson through the highly secret "permissive link" system.

Under this top security procedure, at least four other high-level Administration officials must confirm the President's order before the "weapon use" code is sent to the commander of U.S. forces in South Korea so American pilots can activate their bombs.

In contrast to South Korea, there are no tactical nuclear weapons in South Vietnam nor do the Joint Chiefs of Staff believe the weapons will be needed to defend Khe Sanh or any other major U.S. military position there.

The big differences between Korea and Vietnam considered by the Joint Chiefs of Staff in making their contingency plans were the available U.S. troops, number of conventional weapons, and air and sea power.

With more than a half million American troops in South Vietnam, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have taken the position that the U.S. has sufficient manpower and conventional weapons to handle any attack by the North Vietnamese.

Under their contingency plans, tactical atomic weapons would only be used in Vietnam if hordes of Chinese Communist troops should join the battle and threaten destruction of a number of the 10 U.S. divisions now fighting there.

In South Korea, the American manpower, air power, and fire power capability is not strong enough to repulse an all-out North Korean invasion.

While the U.S. completely dominates the skies in Vietnam, the North Korean air force outnumbers the U.S. and South Korea in modern planes by a three to one margin. In South Vietnam or at nearby bases, the U.S. has more than 5,000 aircraft of all types. In South Korea, the number is less than 190.

33 Days Ago

The USS PUEBLO was seized on the high seas and taken captive by North Korea.

SAN DIEGO 75, 50, AND 25 YEARS AGO

From The Union, Feb. 24, 1893 — The U.S. quarantine station at La Playa will be in commission soon. Dr. W. W. McKay will be the surgeon in charge.

The county teachers' institute will be held next week at Escondido. Republican caucuses were held throughout the county yesterday.

From The Union, Feb. 24, 1918 — The Land & Town Co. is extending its water mains in Chula Vista to cover additional lots planted to fruit trees. The Parris School has received several Indians from the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. The Good Hope mine has shipped a bar of bullion valued at \$3,500.

From The Union, Feb. 24, 1943 — Formation of a committee to press for a law memorial auditorium and convention hall for San Diego was announced yesterday by G. Aubrey Davidson. More than 166,000 persons are employed in the San Diego metropolitan area. Their salaries and wages amount to \$328 million a year. Absentee ballots for the city primary election are available.

RUSSELL KIRK SAYS:

Colleges Should Maintain Tradition and Dignity

This month, the second oldest institution of higher learning in these United States celebrates the 275th anniversary of its founding: the College of William and Mary, at Williamsburg.

Unlike Harvard (a few years older), William and Mary had to struggle for survival most of its years, until the state of Virginia assumed its support and direction in 1906.

Virtually ruined during the Revolution, virtually ruined again during the Civil War, the College of William and Mary sometimes had only a tiny handful of students, by contrast with its present 4,000. John Randolph of Roanoke (who studied briefly at the college, and found it a poor place in the years after the Revolution) wrote in 1814 that in colonial times William and Mary had been "a seminary of learning, under able classical masters."

Certainly the college schooled great Virginians. Here studied three Presidents of the United States: Jefferson, Monroe and Tyler.

Here, too, studied John Marshall and that great man of law, George Wythe, and Peyton Randolph, first president of the Continental Congress. George Washington was the college's first American chancellor. Here, in 1776, the Phi Beta Kappa Society was founded.

Although nowadays William and Mary really is a university, with the oldest school of law in America and modern graduate schools of business, education and marine science — plus a great synchrotron and a graduate branch at Newport News — it preserves

its ancient harmony and humane scale.

It was meant to raise up Christian gentlemen, and it still does, together nowadays with Christian young ladies.

What a contrast, this charming and cheerful college, to the modern mass campus where unhappy student multitudes mutter "Don't fold or spindle us!"

It retains its character and its courtesy in good-natured defiance of the age of automation and the secular city.

Any genuine college of liberal arts and sciences should be a place of dignity, tradition, quiet and academic leisure (a very different thing from academic idleness).

READERS' VIEWPOINT:

On-Ramp of 395 Called Hazardous

Editor, The Union: A hazardous condition exists at the Quince Street on-ramp to Freeway 395 in the city of San Diego.

Instead of an adequate runway lane beside the freeway, the motorist finds himself shuttled directly onto a rough, narrow, eight-foot asphalt shoulder, dangerously close to other cars on the freeway.

There are no signs posted along the approach to warn the unfamiliar driver of what lies ahead.

Recently I used this ramp for the first time, attempted to negotiate it in the normal manner and nearly caused a multiple car accident.

Upon investigation I find that there are several other entrances to this freeway through the park where these same conditions exist.

I have a more than one million mile, accident-free driving record and am very interested in keeping it that way.

I therefore respectfully request the proper authorities help us all to drive more safely by investigating and eliminating highway booby traps such as these and others in the San Diego area.

BRIAN R. FORSYTH
2808 Fifth Ave.

Mexico's Friendship Often Demonstrated

Editor, The Union: I couldn't read Nancy Henderson's letter and do nothing about it. There are a few facts she should know.

During the recent gold crisis, Mexico offered us her entire supply of gold to help back the dollar.

In the last year and a half Mexico has worked behind the scenes and successfully secured the release of numerous Americans from Cuba.

Every Cuban who enters Mexico is fingerprinted and photographed and his passport is marked to show that he is a Cuban in big red letters across the face. A copy of the fingerprints and photographs is sent to our federal law enforcement officials.

Most important of all, Mexico and her people give us something that is a rare commodity these days. They give us their sincere, honest friendship.

I have traveled the length of Mexico and have yet to receive other than the best of treatment. Their hospitality knows no bounds.

When the hippies were denied entry into Mexico, that country didn't specify California youth. They said hippies.

I saw two Mexican nationals turned back at the border until they made themselves presentable. A simple solution to the entrance denials would be a bath and a haircut.

ROBERT J. CONROY
1131 Elm Ave.
Imperial Beach

Menace to Nature Seen in Trapping

Editor, The Union: I would like to thank Willis Richardson for his well-expressed letter concerning the cruel practice of trapping of wild animals in the county.

Those of us who love our pets might well extend that regard to include the wild animals and to make an effort to put an end to the agony that a trapped animal endures.

Let us protect these beautiful animals so that they may live freely and so maintain the balance of nature which is interrupted only by the unthinking interference of mankind.

DOROTHY J. JONES
Star Route, Ramona

Voters' View Is Described

Editor, The Union: Since the Pueblo and Navy Lieutenant Dunn incidents, Mr. Johnson need not worry about having alienated the young generation. His "energetic" efforts in behalf of the Pueblo and Lieutenant Dunn have alienated the parents of the young generation. Unfortunately for Mr. Johnson, we are of voting age.

MARY L. ODER
3350 Wisteria

Readers Praise Pueblo 'Countdown'

Editor's Note: The San Diego Union appreciates the many letters expressing concern for the "countdown" box concerning the critical status of the USS Pueblo. The box has been placed on this page as an editorial subject with the intent of continuing public interest in bringing about the return of the USS Pueblo and its valiant crew.

Editor, The Union: Hats off to you regarding the daily reminder of the USS Pueblo. Please, please, without delay, get that reminder back on the front page where it belongs!

We, too, are mailing the reminder to the President. Diplomacy is one thing, but for just how long is another matter entirely.

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM L. SCHWANEMANN
6327 Balsam Lake Ave.

Editor, The Union: I want to congratulate you on having the imagination and forthrightness to originate and produce the countdown box on the number of days USS Pueblo has been in North Korean hands.

My only suggestion is get it back on the front page and make it bigger and bolder.

LARRY L. JONES
550 N. Mollison
El Cajon

Editor, The Union: I commend you on the "countdown" of the Pueblo published daily!

However, I feel the "countdown" should appear on the front page so that each person who picks up The Union to read the headlines will be reminded daily that our government is not supporting our fighting men as it expects each and every one of them to support it.

BETTY SAUCER
3033 Cabrillo Mesa Dr.

Editor, The Union: Please put the countdown of the USS Pueblo back on the front page. Some people may not like it, but facts are facts!

DARLENE PLEMMONS
1812 Canal St.
Imperial Beach

Editor, The Union: I object to the daily reminder of the Pueblo's capture being moved off the front page to the editorial page.

Mrs. C. A. Lenz and Mrs. W. R. Perkins' suggestions to deluge Washington, D.C., with the reminder taped to a postcard, daily, is magnificent!

MRS. J. M. BEAUCHAMP
148 Fireside St.
Oceanside

Editor, The Union: Put the Pueblo count-up back where it belongs — on the front page where everybody will read it.

M. W. KING
USMC (Ret.)
727 Colorado Ave.
Chula Vista

Boulevard Sunday Garb Deplored

Editor, The Union: You can always tell when it is Sunday; you don't have to look at the calendar. Take a look at Clairemont Mesa Boulevard from Diane to the City Refuse Disposal Area; then, you are sure it is Sunday.

Saturday is different, the wind has taken away the previous Sunday's identifying marks; but Sunday, it is easily recognized.

Last Sunday there was an interesting addition. Someone threw, left or disposed of a sofa. The 3300 block of Clairemont Mesa Boulevard north side, was decorated with little gray cotton balls, each so splendidly displayed on the abounding low weeds. This work of art was helped by the gentle west wind.

From there on to the "dump," the Sunday view comprises empty cartons, full cartons, tree branches, shrubs — with and without roots — multitudinous pieces of paper, (all colors, of course), and the ever-lovin' cans whose metallic fores and glister in the sunshine.

Sunday, East Clairemont Mesa Boulevard is, by all means, dressed for the occasion.



'It's Cold Outside'

H.M.