

" Hard-line Viewpoint "

Political Viewpoint

by Jim Revell

The recent state visit of President Reagan to Canada outlined the severe hard-line viewpoint the administration will be taking over its next four year term.

Prior to the President's disembarkment, two policy statements from Washington led to the anticipation of conflict between ourselves and our neighbours to the south. The denunciation of Canada's National Energy Program would have to be somewhat expected from the leader of a country which has a number of foreign oil companies based in his homeland, but the scrapping of the Fast Coast Fishing Treaty led to an uproar in most diplomatic circles. These two announcements, along with the vagueness of U.S. commitment to the Alaskan Pipeline, certainly overshadowed all the pomp and ceremony which surrounded the visit.

What was, however, a most disgraceful display of the respect and friendship which still exists between ourselves and the U.S. was the

demonstration against U.S. involvement in El Salvador. While the world watched idly, we have seen Cuban and Soviet-incited revolutions in Africa and Latin America. No one could be found last year applauding the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, nor could we understand why western countries stood idly by as Cuban soldiers fought in Angola in the early seventies.

What was the reaction of most people and what are their feelings towards Iran today, following its revolution? Is that country any further ahead today in terms of human rights, education, or welfare?

The point I am attempting to illustrate is that there exists today two vastly different ideologies. There must be a commitment on the part of us all to: protect our ways and style of living while attempting to bring other less fortunate nations closer to ourselves in enjoying these opportunities. While no one is advocating direct conflict, the unjust killing

of innocent people may spell time for action. Students who organize marches and carry banners would do well to look into some of the atrocities which have come about in Afghanistan and Angola since their takeovers. Maybe it's time for them to

learn how to stand at attention during our national anthem and reflect on some of the positive approaches we, in Canada have made in the past. Why, some might even learn and sing a few verses of "O' Canada" instead of shouting obscenities.

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tructive power to annihilate the population of the world. If one side developed a weapon that put them at a severe advantage, tensions could increase to the point where there would be a nuclear holocaust. Anyone who managed to survive the explosions would die from radiation burns, fallout,

starvation, or disease. Such events are inevitable

if we have no control on the arms race.

The SALT process can stop such an arms race. In fact, it has already slowed it considerably. SALT 11 establishes an equal aggregate ceiling on strategic nuclear delivery systems, and equal ceilings on MIRV's; stopping a large buildup and stockpiling of such arms. SALT 11 is not a disarmament. It

SALT II Continued

is a treaty that leaves both countries on an equal footing, as a deterrent, with enough strategic weapons to mount a counter-offensive in the event of an attack.

It is critical to recognize the danger of not ratifying SALT 11. An expansion of the arms race, at significant monetary cost, could lead to nuclear war in the

future. SALT 11 presents an opportunity to take a major leap towards stability in the world. We recommend that the Reagan administration push to pass SALT 11 in the Senate.



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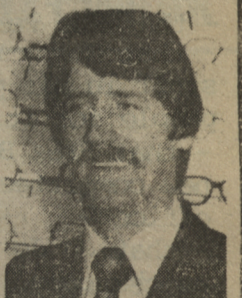
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