

Mac Arthur Warns Kennedy Against Military Adventures in Asia

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not think limited and conventional war possible in the heart of Europe. There was therefore no need to call up reserves. Mr. Kennedy, on the other hand, has been won over to the views of his military adviser, General Maxwell D. Taylor, who quit the Eisenhower Administration in protest. General Taylor's views are congenial to the Army of which he was Chief of Staff; if conventional limited war is possible, then more funds ought to go to the Army and less to the Strategic Air Command. The Army is looking for some way to turn back the clock and resume the game of war without its being mutually suicidal. The idea that armed conflict on the ground over Berlin might provide a "pause for reflection" seems to us dubious; it's hard enough to get that pause before fighting begins; once it starts the hate, fear and enthusiasm unleashed make reflection unlikely. To make conventional war feasible on the ground, the army must be beefed up, so we have the beginnings of mobilization, though without the name. The atmosphere created is not conducive to negotiation.

The More Arms The Less Diplomacy

There are signs that Mr. Kennedy is taking advantage of the Berlin crisis to expand forces for swift mobile military action by conventional means in those peripheral areas, like Southeast Asia and Latin America, where conventional war may well remain possible. The danger here is that the more military power we have the less we rely on diplomacy and the greater our tendency to rush into situations where patience is wiser than intervention. A few years ago we might thus have plunged into endless trouble over Iraq, which was supposed to be on the verge of going Red but has become a prime headache for Moscow. Only a few months ago, had more airlift been available, we might have created an Algeria all our own in Cuba. Mr. Kennedy may have had Laos in mind when he said he intended to "have a wider choice than humiliation or all-out nuclear war." He may feel the current negotiations with Red China over Laos as humiliation, but the current talks are far better than compounding the past errors of the CIA and the military under Eisenhower in Laos by plunging into the jungle with American boys. Our military machine, fueled by another \$6 billion since Kennedy took office, already almost too monstrous for management, is

Most Reviewed Book of The Week

"Mr. Speaker, there was recently published a book titled 'The Un-Americans,' whose subtitle, describing it as the first fully documented account of the notorious Un-American Activities Committee, how their abuse of power is being met by a growing opposition, clearly suggests the scurrilous nature of this publication. It is published in a paperback edition, over 300 pages, priced at 60 cents, by Ballantine Books, Inc., of New York, and is obviously meant to reach as wide an audience as possible.

"The drive to discredit this committee coincides with the present massive peace effort of the world Communist conspiracy which is designed to weaken American security, to disarm and to destroy us . . . at a critical stage of world history, with Berlin and Germany at stake. . . . At a most conservative estimate, the Communist Party within our borders will be expending this year not thousands but millions of dollars, in its propaganda efforts . . . and the dissemination of its tainted literature."

—HUAC Chairman Walter in the House, July 17

"Gore Vidal was the Democratic candidate for Congress from the 29th District of New York in the last election. Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, the discerning voters of that district spared your party and this House the onus of Mr. Vidal's membership in the Congress of the U.S. A few weeks ago in Life Magazine, Vidal did a subtle and clever smear job upon the distinguished Senator from Arizona [Goldwater]. In the Herald-Tribune of last week he did a vicious and not so subtle a smear job on the Committee on Un-American Activities. He uses the book of Frank Donner, 'The Un-Americans' as the basis for his attack."

—HUAC Member Scherer in the House, July 19.

much too eager for involvement in Asia. We noted in the *New York Herald-Tribune* the day after the President's address that General MacArthur on his recent visit to Mr. Kennedy at the White House had asked if he could be frank and when told he might "proceed to give as frank a talk as the President ever had heard. Net of the talk: keep U.S. troops off the mainland of Asia at all costs." There lies the biggest trap of all for our conventional warriors, a quicksand which could absorb a major share of our youth in endless "limited" war.

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