

**Are We Prepared?**

**Bold Policy, More Arms Vital to Stop Red Tide**

Last of 10 Articles  
By **ROBERT S. RIRD** and **OGDEN R. REID**  
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AMERICA'S national security—upon which hangs the survival of the United States and the whole free world—confronts the Nation and its leaders with the problem of finding a bold new approach to stop Communism's steady advance.

In the thinking of a few men of cabinet rank in Washington, the time has come when the United States and its friends must wrest the initiative from the Kremlin. The Korean embroilment is the latest and best demonstration of the way the Russians have forced us to meet their every move. This has led us to the predicament in which the free world has engaged the main bulk of its available forces in Korea, Indonesia and Malaya while the Russians have not committed any of their first line troops.

And Russia is winning. Moreover, this has left the greatest prize of all—Europe—wholly unprotected against the threat of the Soviet's best divisions, which could sweep across the continent in a few days. As yet, no policy has been evolved to develop this initiative in the struggle against the Soviet. But in the minds of some administration members there has grown the realization that such a plan is America's most immediate need.

**TASK 1—Build a first-class intelligence service.** Whatever intelligence we get now has either been deficient or poorly evaluated. Personnel should be improved under a top-ranking civilian head, a non-political appointee who should command the respect and the ear of the President, the State and Defense departments, and Congress. Under him there should be first-class personnel and he should have the power to pull together all of our intelligence material and operational plans, both diplomatic and military. He should be assisted by a top five-man board with no other function than properly to collate, evaluate and interpret raw intelligence data.

**Task 2—On the basis of better intelligence properly evaluated, the new bold policy of the United States should be geared to three things:**  
1—Finding out what Russia is up to.  
2—The military capabilities and national resources of this country.  
3—American foreign policy and its commitments.

Based on what intelligence we have now, the foregoing analysis has suggested a line of action to the advocates of a policy of initiative. This action could take two forms. One would be the stationing of a thin line of khaki in all sensitive areas where Russia or her satellites might move. The other would be a firm statement by the President that further aggression in these areas would invite all-out war.

**ENTHUSIASM** for this policy is not shared by the majority of officers of cabinet rank charged with responsibility for the Nation's security. The best expression of this point of view holds that unless it becomes clear that the "one-alarm" fire in Korea grows into a four-alarm blaze there is no reason to use a stronger military effort. They also argue that it would be unwise to commit this country to a greater military effort, as this might fall in with Russian design, in the sense that this rearming would put a strain on the national economic structure. This might be a needless strain, these men feel, because the Russians could very well pull out from their anonymous aggression and leave the United States saddled with a top-heavy military structure.

From the adherents of the policy of initiative comes this answer:  
The United States needs a whole new approach in order to out-manuever the Russians. Secondly, this approach will require more armed forces to back it up. Third, Russia, potentially the most powerful nation on earth, spending upwards of 50 percent of its national income for its military establishment, obviously would not be building its powerful armies unless it were committed to world conquest.

Taking the initiative demands quick action on the upbuilding of America's military and industrial strength. America's bases, such as Formosa, Okinawa, the Philippines in the Pacific, and in Alaska on this continent should be given muscle by additional tactical Air Force and Navy units. In Formosa until recently, there were only 12 U. S. war vessels facing a possible invasion fleet of 4000 Communist junks. Unless our strength in the Formosa area is built up, the Navy can not carry out the President's order to keep the island isolated. To show the difficulty faced by the 12 warships taking on 4000 junks. Each American vessel would have to account for an average of more than 300 junks, which are hard to sink. This score would have to be made in a 24 hour period, half of which would be darkness, while in the other 12 hours, the invading junks could well be fog-covered.

**EUROPE, too, needs an immediate military build-up.** It should not be forgotten in our current preoccupation with the Orient. The Western Union countries need 25 divisions. They can muster now only 10 divisions, two of which are American. France is committed to providing 10 more, England has promised two, the Dutch three, and the Belgians one. The rest might have to come from the United States, United Kingdom countries, and from Spain, which has 22 divisions.

This European force must have proper equipment and must be supported by sufficient tactical air strength.

As a bulwark to European and Far Eastern defense, the United States should have a mobile Army corps of four divisions, with an airlift ready to move and support it swiftly. This force should have a make-up of airborne and infantry divisions, highly trained and completely equipped with tanks, anti-tank weapons, anti-aircraft, heavy artillery, and good communications equipment.

**LOOKING** to our shores, an adequate radar warning set-up must be devised, embracing the United States, Canada and the north-eastern approaches. Combined with this radar belt, there should be powerful fighter-interceptor forces, specifically assigned to the defense of the United States. Radar and interceptor planes would not account for the annihilation of an attacking force. Until the day when we have guided missiles, the probability is that the majority of an attacking force will get through. This underlines the need for air raid warning alarms to enable civilians to get into such bomb shelters as exist. Stockpiles of medical supplies, as well as organized medical teams, are essential to care for the vast numbers of casualties likely in an atom-bomb attack. Training of civilians also is urgent, since the greater the number of trained people who know what to do and where to go immediately, the fewer the casualties.

**IN RECAPITULATION,** this whole broad program would entail a quality of decisiveness now lacking in the policy-making councils of the Nation. Most Americans have suspected that official charting of the national destiny is being done in a climate of indecision. The closer one examines the making of policy in Washington, the more confirmed the suspicion.

The rivalries of the three military services are resolved in dollars-and-cents expenditures on a horse-trading basis, not on evaluation of security needs. Foreign policies are not realistically related to military capabilities. They can't be related today because State Department keeps secret from Defense Department much of its significant planning. The fact is that the planners in various departments of government devote almost as much time trying to pry from each other their secrets as they give to the shaping of actual plans. Teamwork in Washington is not coordination; it is conflict between opposing teams, with the President sitting in the middle as referee.

The plans and suggestions outlined in this series are considered by responsible leaders as minimums for safety. They represent a compromise between the existing weakness of the Nation's military position and ideal security.

**THE END**

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