
Defense Report

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The Third World: A U.S. Defense Problem?

Defense planners are concerned, at least to some degree, at the results of the conference of 86 "non-aligned" countries who met in Ceylon in mid-August. Their concern: most of the nations involved were united in condemning the United States as their "principal enemy."

The conference featured considerable bickering among the countries concerned but there was surprising and ominous large scale support for several anti-U.S. recommendations. These included:

—The United States should get out of South Korea, and the U.S. was condemned for not already having done so.

—North Vietnam received loud support for its demands that the U.S. provide war reparations.

—Panama's desire that the U.S. turn over the Panama Canal was enthusiastically backed.

Two other widely supported resolutions which involved all Western nations and not only the United States were:

—Ceylon's proposal for a Third World Bank with a single currency.

—India's suggestion that a "news pool" be created for use by the state-controlled news media among the Third World. A "free press" cannot do the job as far as the conferees were concerned.

What the conference seemed to agree on as a basic Third World package was a cartelization of resources designed to raise the prices paid by the West, with funds and any other aid involved turned over to the non-aligned countries without any strings attached.

The outcome was not a recommended alignment with the Soviet Union or with any communist group as had been feared by some observers. Although many of the speakers used what the West has come to categorize as "communist rhetoric," most observers agreed that the threat of a Third World swing to the communist orbit did not materialize. These same observers agreed, however, that there was a considerable threat in the militancy of the demands on the U.S. and the West, together with the apparent will to use growing non-aligned country capabilities to back up these demands.