

MEMORIAL DAY

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W. T. Fine  
Confederate  
see him*

IT WASN'T SO MANY YEARS AGO THAT A GREAT KANSAN, DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER, WAS ASKED FOR HIS OPINION OF MANKIND'S OLDEST SCOURGE.

"I HATE WAR," THE GREAT HERO OF WORLD WAR II REPLIED, "AS ONLY A SOLDIER WHO HAS LIVED IT CAN, ONLY AS ONE WHO HAS SEEN ITS BRUTALITY, ITS FUTILITY, ITS STUPIDITY."

IKE, YOU SEE, WAS AN AUTHORITY ON THE SUBJECT, AND NO ONE WHO HAS EVER FOUGHT ON A BATTLEFIELD, WHO HAS SEEN HIS BUDDIES DIE AT HIS FEET, WHO HAS WATCHED THE ANGUISH IN A MOTHER'S FACE WHEN SHE TEARS OPEN A TELEGRAM FROM HER LATE SON'S MILITARY SUPERIORS - ONLY ANYONE WHO HAS LIVED THROUGH THIS LIVING DEATH CAN FULLY GRASP THE HORRORS OF WARFARE.

AND NO ONE WHO HAS MADE SUCH A SACRIFICE, SURRENDERING THE  
FINEST YEARS OF HIS LIFE - AND SOMETIMES SURRENDERING HIS  
LIFE ITSELF - CAN EVER AGAIN ENTERTAIN THOUGHTS OF FIGHTING  
AND BLEEDING AND DYING ON A DISTANT SHORE, IN A LONELY  
JUNGLE, IN THE DEEP BLUE WATERS OR ENDLESS SKIES.

WE KNOW WHAT A WASTE WAR IS - AND WE WANT TO PUT AN END TO  
THAT WASTE FOREVER. WE DON'T WANT TO SEND OUR CHILDREN, OR  
OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN OFF TO REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKES THAT  
DOOMED EARLIER GENERATIONS. FOR THE SOLDIER IS THE TRUEST  
PEACEMAKER. HE KNOWS THAT A GREAT NATION MUST SHOULDER  
GREAT RESPONSIBILITIES. HE KNOWS THAT A GREAT NATION MUST  
LIVE UP TO THE IDEALS WHICH GIVE HER SELF-RESPECT. HE KNOWS  
THAT A GREAT NATION MUST SPEND DOLLARS FOR DEFENSE, OR SHE  
WILL BE DOOMED TO SPILL BLOOD IN COMBAT.

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WE'RE NOT WARMONGERS - JUST THE OPPOSITE. MANY OF US CARRY PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL SCARS THAT WILL REMIND US OF OUR SERVICE FOR AS LONG AS WE LIVE. AND WE HAVE NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR IN INSISTING THAT THIS COUNTRY NEVER LET DOWN HER GUARD.

THE LAST FEW YEARS HAVEN'T BEEN GOOD ONES FOR AMERICA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD. WE HAVE VACILATED IN THE FACE OF ENEMIES. WE HAVE GIVEN NO CLEAR SIGNAL TO OUR FRIENDS, WHILE TO OUR FOES WE HAVE PREACHED RECONCILIATION AS THEY WENT ON INEXORABLY BUILDING UP THEIR ARMAMENTS OF DESTRUCTION. WE HAVE SIGNED AWAY OUR CANAL IN PANAMA AND ALLOWED OUR ARMED FORCES TO APPROACH THE POINT OF OBSOLESCENCE.

#### FUELING THE SOVIET JUGGERNAUT

TODAY, THE SOVIET UNION SPENDS \$60 BILLION MORE THAN WE DO ON DEFENSE -EACH AND EVERY YEAR. THEIR MILITARY BUDGET CONTINUES TO GROW AT A STEADY 3% CLIP, WHILE OURS, ALLOWING FOR INFLATION, WILL ACTUALLY DECLINE THIS YEAR. THEY HAVE NEARLY 5 TIMES OUR TANKS, NINE TIMES OUR DIVISIONS, AND FIVE TIMES OUR ARTILLERY.

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THE RUSSIANS START CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW GENERAL-PURPOSE SUBMARINE ABOUT ONCE EVERY FIVE WEEKS. WE START ONE A YEAR. COMPARED TO 1964, OUR FLEET IS ABOUT HALF ITS FORMER SIZE. JUST TO KEEP PACE, WE NEED TO BUY 17-18 SHIPS AND 330 AIRCRAFT EACH YEAR - AND WE'RE FALLING SHORT OF EVEN THAT MINIMAL GOAL.

THEN THERE'S THE INDIRECT AID WE ACTUALLY PROVIDE TO THE SOVIETS IN THEIR RELENTLESS CAMPAIGN TO ACHIEVE MILITARY SUPERIORITY.

ACCORDING TO ONE COMMON MARKET HIGH COMMISSIONER, QUOTED RECENTLY IN NEWSWEEK, "THERE IS NO WAY THE SOVIET UNION COULD CONTINUE TO SPEND 13-15% OF ITS GNP ON THE MILITARY WITHOUT WESTERN ASSISTANCE.

HE'S RIGHT, OF COURSE. IF YOU WANT A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE, JUST LOOK ACROSS THE AFGHANISTAN FRONTIER. YOU'LL FIND THE SOVIETS ARE USING TRUCKS AND TANK ENGINES MANUFACTURED IN THEIR KAMA RIVER TRUCK PLANT - HELPED ALONG BY 130 U.S. LICENSES. ELSEWHERE WESTERN EQUIPMENT PRODUCES 80% OF RUSSIA'S POLYETHYLENE, 75% OF ITS CHEMICAL FERTILIZER AND 40% OF ITS CEMENT.

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A CLEAR AND DEADLY TREND

THE FACT IS, WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING IT, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE HELPING TO FUEL THE RUSSIAN JUGGERNAUT. IN THE MISGUIDED HOPE THAT THE HARD-LINERS IN THE KREMLIN MIGHT ONE DAY CALL OFF THEIR PLANS FOR INTERNATIONAL DOMINATION, WE'RE LENDING THEM THE TOOLS TO MAKE DOMINATION A REALITY.

THE TREND IS CLEAR AND DEADLY; SINCE SALT I WAS PASSED, THE RUSSIANS HAVE OUTSPENT US ON MILITARY HARDWARE ALONE BY MORE THAN A HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS. IF WE HAD THAT HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS, IT COULD HAVE PAID FOR ALL THE B-1 COMBERS ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR, PLUS ALL THE MX MISSILES AND SHELTERS, PLUS ALL PROGRAMMED TIRDENT MISSILES AND SUBMARINES, PLUS ALL XM-1 TANKS, F-14'S, F-15'S, F-18'S AND MORE.

NOW WE HAVE SEEN SOME GESTURES IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS THAT SUGGEST THAT AMERICA IS WAKING UP TO THE CRISIS SHE CONFRONTS.

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THE CONGRESS IS NOW DEBATING REGISTRATION OF YOUNG MEN IN PEACETIME, AND AS A SYMBOL THIS MAY BE AN IMPORTANT STEP. MORE LIKELY, HOWEVER, SUCH PRE-MOBILIZATION REGISTRATION WILL BE LITTLE MORE THAN A SYMBOLIC GESTURE. EVEN THE AMERICAN BOYCOTT OF THE MOSCOW OLYMPICS IS, BY ITSELF, LITTLE MORE THAN A POPULAR PUBLIC RELATIONS MOVE UNLESS IT IS BACKED UP BY A STRONG AND COHERENT PROGRAM OF MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC REBUILDING.

THERE IS NOTHING PARTISAN IN THIS. DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS KNOW NO DIVISIONS WHEN IT COMES TO PATRIOTISM OR SUPPORT FOR OUR LEGITIMATE INTERESTS AS FREEDOM'S PROTECTOR. DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS KNEW NO DIVISIONS WHEN IT CAME TIME TO ENLIST, TO GO OFF TO WAR, TO BLEED OR DIE FOR THEIR COUNTRY.

THERE COULD BE NO PARTISANSHIP INVOLVED IN THE GREAT ISSUES OF LIFE AND DEATH WHICH WE ARE NOW DEBATING. BUT THERE MUST BE CONTINUED VIGILANCE, AND A WILLINGNESS TO MAKE THE HARD DECISIONS AND THE EVEN HARDER SACRIFICES WITHOUT WHICH ALL THE CURRENT TALK ABOUT REESTABLISHING AMERICA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD WILL REMAIN JUST THAT - TALK.

WE MUST GO ALONG WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET COMMITTEES IN CALLING FOR ADDITIONAL MILITARY SPENDING. WE MUST TARGET THAT SPENDING CAREFULLY - NOT ANY ACROSS THE BOARD INCREASES - BUT ALLOCATION WHERE IT WILL DO THE MOST GOOD, WHETHER THAT BE FOR INCREASED SALARIES, BETTER MAINTENANCE, OR NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS.

THE VERY LEAST THAT WE CAN DO IS RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR PILOTS AND OTHER MILITARY PERSONNEL WHOSE SALARIES HAVE BECOME A VIRTUAL SCANDAL. INFLATION HITS ALL OF US HARD - BUT EVEN HARDER DOES IT HIT THE YOUNG SOLDIER AND HIS FAMILY.

WE'RE ASKING HIM TO GIVE UP THE BEST YEARS OF HIS LIFE. THE LEAST WE CAN GIVE IN RETURN IS A DECENT LIVING WAGE.

BUT ALL IS NOT DOOM AND GLOOM ON THIS MEMORIAL DAY. AS NEVER BEFORE IN RECENT YEARS, AMERICANS ARE UNITED IN REALIZING THE OBLIGATIONS OF WORLD LEADERSHIP. WHAT'S MORE WE LIVE IN A TIME UNASHAMED TO WAVE THE FLAG OR SING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.

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SIGNS OF HOPE

I'VE NEVER BEEN PROUDER OF AMERICA'S YOUNG PEOPLE THAN OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS, AS I'VE WATCHED THEM VOICING PROTEST AGAINST IRAN'S ILLEGAL AND MORALLY REPREHENSIBLE SEIZURE OF OUR TEHERAN DIPLOMATS. THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE YOUR CHILDREN AND MINE, THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY, OUR LAST BEST HOPE AGAINST A WORLD PERMANENTLY ENSLAVED.

MY FELLOW KANSANS, WE MUST BEGIN TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY WHAT KIND OF A WORLD WE WILL GIVE TO THE YOUNG. TO THEM, WE MUST GIVE MORE THAN A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT. WE MUST GIVE THEM CONCRETE ACTIONS TO BACK UP OUR WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT. WE MUST TAKE THE STEPS THAT WILL INSURE THAT THEY WILL NEVER HAVE TO GO OFF TO FIGHT IN A FOREIGN WAR, AS SO MANY OF OF DID.

AND THEN OUR MEMORIAL DAYS CAN BE CONSECRATED NOT ONLY TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO DIED IN WAR - BUT TO THE LESSONS WE LEARNED FROM THEIR SACRIFICE WHICH ENABLED US TO LIVE IN PEACE. THEY WILL NOT HAVE DIED - AND WE WILL NOT HAVE LIVED - IN VAIN.