

WASHINGTON

The Navy And Air Force Snarl

In his first annual report, Secretary of Defense James Forrestal outlines "the foundations of the controversy between the Air Force and the Naval Air Arm" in the belief that the country should have the background against which to measure the arguments on both sides.

At present, responsibility for strategic warfare belongs to the Air Force and responsibility for anti-submarine warfare belongs to the Navy. There still remain, however, "great areas in which the viewpoints of the services have not come together."

The Secretary points out that "the Navy has always been a tightly organized, self-contained service. Its great strategic mission has been control of the seas. In this, it has made use of air power and of limited ground forces (i. e., the U. S. Marine Corps) on land missions peculiar to the conduct of the war at sea."

The Army, continues the Secretary, "has had to scatter its energies and organization in many dispersed and diffused fields. The Army Engineers, for example, have had much to do with the development of public work. The Army's administrative duties, after all wars, have been numerous and heavy. By contrast, the Navy's mission—the control of the seas with its correlated responsibility of conduct of anti-submarine warfare—has been compact and much more sharply focused."

Pointing out that the Navy developed its air power as an integral part of the Navy organization, the Secretary takes note of the fact that the carrier and not the battleship has become the spearhead, the cutting edge, of modern naval power. The Air Force, first developed along the line of tactical cooperation with ground troops, later turned to the development and use of air power as a major strategic weapon.

Mr. Forrestal points out that the limitations imposed by the necessity of having a balanced peacetime budget compel difficult decisions in the allocation of funds. Consequently, out of the competition, controversies arise. Officers in the Air Force "honestly believe that the carrier will have a limited use in a war in the future" and challenge the maintenance of these ships. The misgivings are "honestly held" just as are the "Navy's regarding the capabilities of the long-range bomber."

Mr. Forrestal takes the view that the strategic Air Force has established itself as an essential part of modern warfare but believes that it must be capable of close tactical cooperation with ground troops. He also believes that carriers and Naval air will play a part in any war and that adequate, but not necessary, funds must be allocated to each. While modern airplanes can fly oceans in non-stop flight and the air supply of Berlin has given new visions of large-scale transport by air, the Secretary still believes that we are "a long way from the time when air transport will be able to span the ocean as a cargo carrier in great quantity and at low cost."

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On Costa Rica

The recent flare-up between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, which led the former country to invoke the 1947 Treaty of Rio de Janeiro, has been somewhat clarified by a report issued by a preliminary commission of the organization of American States.

In its report, the Commission blamed both sides in the dispute, but, according to the Associated Press, laid heavier emphasis on Costa Rica's part. The government of that country was accused of giving "material and oral aid" to the Caribbean Legion which has the avowed purpose of overthrowing some governments, including the Nicaraguan regime.

At present a five-man international military commission is visiting the two countries to see that they refrain from "all kinds of hostile acts". Apparently, the fighting has died down but five or six other nations are hoping that the adventurous Caribbean Legion will be curbed because they fear it might try to start trouble in their areas.

In connection with the squabbles that upset the Republics in this hemisphere, south of the United States, the main interest of the United States is the establishment and maintenance of peace. It is futile for the present to expect anything like popular self-government to function in most of the areas and

the best that can be expected is that little democracies will evolve during the future years.

Peace Depends On What Stalin Thinks

The views of Premier Stalin, of Russia, upon world affairs are important because he happens to control the destinies of a large country which has preponderant military force in two continents.

The State Department has had responsible students make a serious study of the words and writings of Stalin, using months of reading, comparing and analyzing everything Stalin has said in his years as revolutionist and Communist leader.

George Morgan, who made one study, confined himself to actual statements and comes up with the conclusion that the overwhelming burden of Stalin's statements throughout the years indicates he is convinced that a clash between the Communist world, led by Russia, and the non-Communist world, led by the United States, is inevitable.

There are times when Stalin has been somewhat in conflict with his preponderant viewpoint, but these

are explained by the author as statements made for tactical reasons. They are daily contradicted, he points out, by what is taught and preached in the Soviet school as the writings and sayings of the Premier.

The Soviet Premier seems to be convinced that the world is divided, with Moscow the "Socialist center"

and Washington the "Capitalist center". He thinks that the two centers will struggle for possession of the world economy and that the contest will decide the fate of Capitalism and Communism. More definitely, Stalin believes that the United States

is the center around which the capitalist system will form the final war to the death between the two systems.

The conclusions reached by the American official are not sensational. (Continued on Page Eight)

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