

Are We Scared to Defend Ourselves?

THE AMERICAN people are scared! Many times in the past the freedom of this nation has been in peril but always before love for liberty has motivated the brave to defend it, even to death.

Many would do so again, if necessary, but it is by no means certain there would be enough of them. We cannot tell whether young men would answer a call to arms or if our leaders would waver and choose to negotiate rather than fight.

We are afraid of our enemies and we are afraid of the weapons that we have in our hands for the defense of our freedom.

Remember that in Korea our nation negotiated peace instead of using weapons at our command to defeat communism. Remember that in Vietnam our leaders negotiated a peace of sorts. Remember that we lost both of these wars because we did not fight to win.

In a feature headlined "Should Church Oppose Nuclear Arms," U.S. News & World Report (Dec. 20, 1982), Thomas Gumbleton, auxiliary Catholic Bishop of Detroit, is quoted as saying that Soviet domination of

the United States would be preferable to use of nuclear weapons.

Gumbleton denied that he was saying he'd rather be Red than dead, but added that loss of freedom rather than use of nuclear weapons in defense "is the only choice I could make."

A majority of 1,540 Americans interviewed in a Gallup Poll reported Dec. 5 seem to agree. Seventy-one percent said they would favor "an agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union for an immediate verifiable freeze on the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons."

The poll also showed that only 39 per cent of those questioned believed it would be possible to set up a system for verifying and checking whether the Soviet Union is abiding by the agreement.

It is no secret that the ultimate aim of communism is world domination. The goal is not freedom but totalitarian world government, where only the party elite would enjoy high standards of living and those in disfavor might be executed or banished to labor camps.

In a recent letter to Jeff R. Laird, Oklahoma City, Bill Lind of New York City recalled a Christmas he spent on New Britain Island after the first combat landing he made during World War II. Lind is the son of Adolph Linscheid, distinguished former longtime president of East Central University at Ada.

"Thank God, 60 percent of the people alive today never lived through that," Lind wrote, "because there were heroes who gave all they had. Men had to fight like beasts to try to crush the evil of human minds. Yet, I am glad that I did live when simply living heroically was routine and commonplace, and not even particularly remarkable. Even so, we are fighting economic wars we must win or perish."

What has become of our faith and courage? Are our freedoms and opportunities worth less than life as state controlled slaves?

If God wills that life on earth should end, nothing can save it. If not, all the weapons mankind possesses could not destroy it, but we might have to fight to save our way of life.

God and Nuclear Arms

TO THE EDITOR:

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Ferdie J. Deering Dec. 28 takes exception to Thomas Gumbleton's remark that if he had to choose between loss of freedom or the use of nuclear weapons he would have to choose loss of freedom. Mr. Deering thinks this shows a lack of courage — that somehow we've lost the ability to "live heroically."

What kind of "courage" does it take to gamble the baby against the bath water? Is Mr. Deering suggesting he would seriously gamble the lives of his children, nieces, nephews, and friends against their political freedom?

No. He doesn't think he's gambling because of a serious flaw in his logic. He has a fatalistic attitude about a nuclear holocaust — whatever happens will be God's will, we can't help it. But he has the opposite attitude about our "way of life" — we can help that.

In his closing sentence he says: "If God wills that life on earth should end, nothing can save it. If not, all the weapons mankind possess could

~~not destroy it, but we might have to fight to save our way of life. So the~~ preservation of the world is God's responsibility; the preservation of the U.S. is ours?

I would suggest that history and the Bible clearly show that God allows us to suffer the consequences of our deeds. If we blow up the world, God will hold us responsible.

I also believe it is God's grace and not our courage or our nuclear weapons that have saved us. If God wills for the U.S. to be destroyed, we won't stop that either.

The biblical prophets never condemned Israel for a lack of military might or preparedness. They often condemned them 1.) for putting their trust in "horses and chariots," and 2.) for failing to care for the "aliens, and widows, and fatherless" among them. Both were signs that they had forgotten their God.

I pray we may repent accordingly.

Duane Beachey, Spencer