Gelb: detente of little value

By Gerald Ralack

The policy of detente with the Soviet Union as started during the Ford administration is of little value, Leslie Gelb of the American Enterprise Institute said in an address at Wellesley College on Tuesday.

"We have been practicing for the past five years an irretrievable diplomacy because it does not address the needs of the people," Gelb, a former diplomat, said.

Gelb said that rather than "detente," which he defined as "understanding that hate each other is civil," America should have "enemies," a more friendly cooperation. He added that he does not expect detente to be achieved in the near future.

One of the things that makes the detente "irrelevant," Gelb said, is the fact that it emphasizes nuclear arms agreements. "I don't think one of the major problems in the world is pre-warming nuclear war," he stated, explaining that the United States has many times the nuclear power necessary to destroy the Soviet Union, which makes war unlikely. He said that the threshold test ban treaty is "too weak" to be effective and "it shows other nations how unimportant" it is. Gelb said that the Soviet Union and the United States are about limiting nuclear arms.

Gelb noted that "detente did succeed in lowering defense spending as a percentage of the gross national product, but we are spending more (for defense) in real dollars than unimilled dollars - in years immediately preceding detente."

He also argued that because many special interest groups are not against detente, "the president has come up with a fast fix to demonstrate the advantage of detente," making it less likely that any long range agreements will be achieved.

As a replacement for detente, Gelb said he would like to have "unasonic diplomacy" dealing with energy policy and international economic issues and involving a "massive effort of diplomacy."

"Henry Kissinger does not think in these terms; he is a solo artist. Past Secretary of State also went for the quick fix because it was popular," he said.

"What Kissinger has been rebuking is what he wrote best about the nineteenth century diplomats like Bismarck, Talleyrand... They were very good at making agreements to keep each other in power."

The one accomplishment that Gelb credited to detente is the agreement to limit ABM's, which he believes could have had "deshabilizing" influence on the arm balance.

The reason for the policy of detente, Gelb said, was that "Nixon and Kissinger decided that we could not get out of Vietnam by beating the North Vietnamese over the head; the way was through Moscow and Peking. The Soviets were prepared to provide help if (a) we gave substantial economic help, and (b) if we agreed to treat them as equals."

Despite his disillusionment with detente, Gelb concluded, "I don't think we should draw the conclusion that the communists are going to be hedgewoodknapped."

Additional materials, including Attorney General William Saxbe, also stressed that Ford administration policies would be called until all other measures had been tried to control the situation. Saxbe, in a news conference Monday, said that the situation could be legally called "only when they have finally degraded the National Security and they have declared the situation out of control."

Saxbe did not specify who they were, but the most likely candidates for the post of Massachusetts Governor Francis W. Sargent '59, who had made a written request for Federal troops to Fordin Tuesday, and Boston Mayor Kevin White, who called for Federal troops to be sent into the city last week when increased friction increased the pressure on the Boston Tactical Police Force almost to the breaking point.

Judge Garrity, to whom "Foam Rubbers Is Our Business"

By Laron Lee

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