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The liberals were right

After all these years, the thesis held by us "bleeding heart liberals" that U.S. foreign policy is rotten at its core has been verified (again) by the highest officials in our government. ("Pentagon outlines post-Cold War role," Daily News, March 8.)

I refer to the "American missions" — to prevent the nations of the world from pursuing "a more aggressive posture to protect their legitimate interests." Even the knee-jerk patriot should understand that preventing others from pursuing their legitimate interests is indefensible and unethical.

But this has always been the wellspring of U.S. policy. In 1948, when State Department wise man George Kennan wrote another classified advisory on U.S. foreign policy, he didn't talk about the evil Russians. No, he simply said that our "real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships that will permit us to maintain that disparity" whereby 6 percent of the world's population controls 50 percent of its wealth.

We liberals and progressives hold to the adage "my country right or wrong. When right, to keep it right; when wrong, to set it right." Now there is no Soviet Union to

divert our attention from Washington's hunger for world domination. Perhaps now the self-styled patriots, who never had the courage to look the beast in the eye, will admit that we were right all along.

— **Bill Becker**
Woodland Hills

Public Forum
Daily News
P.O. Box 4200
Woodland Hills, CA 91365

as submitted. Deletions
by editor enclosed
in "[", "]"

March 10, 1992

Dear editor,

After all these years, the thesis held by us "bleeding heart liberals" that U.S. foreign policy is rotten at its core has been verified (again) by the highest officials in our government. ("Pentagon outlines post-Cold War Role," Nation & World, Sunday, March 8.)

I refer to the "American mission"--to prevent any nation in the world from pursuing "a more aggressive posture to protect their legitimate interests." [We have here a somewhat subtle point of logic and morality, but] even the knee-jerk patriot should understand that preventing others from pursuing their legitimate interests is indefensible and [defines one unequivocally as] unethical.

But this has always been the wellspring of U.S. policy. In 1948, when State Department wise man George Kennan wrote in another classified advisory on U.S. foreign policy, he didn't talk about the evil Russkies. No, he simply said that our "real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships that will permit us to maintain the disparity" whereby 6% of the world's population controls 50% of its wealth. [Ever the realpolitiker, Kennan suggested that we dispense with objectives "such as human rights, the raising of living standards, and democratization," lest these "idealistic slogans" interfere with our real task. His program was realized in the establishment of pro-U.S. dictatorships around the world whose behavior rivaled the worst of the Soviet Union's.]

We liberals and progressives hold to the adage "my country right or wrong. When right, to keep it right; when wrong, to set it right." Now there is no Soviet Union to divert our attention from Washington's hunger for world domination. Perhaps now the self-styled patriots, who never had the courage to look the beast in the eye, will admit that we were right all along.

Sincerely,

Bill Becker