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[8/25/75]

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

A New Foreign Policy
for AmericaDon R
MAY

For almost ten years the United States has been without a consensus on foreign policy. Weariness with the burdens of Western leadership, Vietnam, domestic racial strife, the counter-culture, Watergate and now "stagflation" have all combined to produce a serious danger of isolationism. Nixon and Kissinger were able to take advantage of the fact that the Congress and the country were sick and tired of foreign policy. Like a two-man band, they orchestrated a major revision of America's role in the world without "normal" checks and balances.

Under such appealing slogans as moving "from an era of confrontations to an era of negotiations" and building a "structure of peace," the Nixon and now also the Ford Administration have put pursuit of accommodation with adversaries ahead of relations with allies and the Third World. Kissinger puts critics of his Realpolitik down as people who don't understand the danger of nuclear war. In the latest manifestation of the old "illusion of American omnipotence," Nixon and Kissinger tried to arrange a "new order" in world affairs in accordance with their preconceptions.¹

The Congress and the country were so anxious to believe that the two "traveling salesmen" were in fact "ending the Cold War" that sober analyses of the Nixon Administration's efforts have been few and far between. But hard-headed assessment

¹ See D. W. Brogan's classic essay, "The Illusion of American Omnipotence," Harper's, December 1952.

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