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With Presidents to the Summit

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be extracted from the process and ships to be propelled.

Albert Einstein, whose most important work was done in the first decade of this century, produced the Theory of Special Relativity. As a young patent examiner in Switzerland, he devoted all his spare time to thinking about the relationships between mass, speed, energy, and the speed of light.

Clearly the energy of a body was related to both its mass and its speed. Yet light is a massless form of energy. By pure reasoning Einstein deduced that the absolute amount of energy in a body is the mass of that body times the square of the speed of light:

$$E = m \times c^2$$

The immediate consequence of special relativity is that speed and mass are interchangeable forms of energy. When a mass of uranium is transformed into energy, whether controlled in a nuclear reactor or uncontrolled in a bomb, special relativity is played out dramatically.

These five equations are not inventions as we think of the light bulb or the airplane, but rather they are profound expressions of the most basic principles that organize the universe. From those principles, engineers like Thomas Edison and the Wright brothers make practical applications that change our lives.

FRANK C. MAHNCKE
Washington, D.C.

Clift, A. Denis. *With Presidents to the Summit*. Fairfax, Va.: George Mason Univ. Press, 1993. 211pp. \$23.95

This book provides an insider's recollections of a decade of presidential summit meetings. The author was the consummate staffer on the National Security Council during the Nixon and Ford administrations. Convincing evidence of Clift's professionalism came when newly elected Vice President Walter Mondale selected Clift to stay on in a Democratic administration to handle for him foreign policy, intelligence, and defense affairs. The reader is not left to wonder why Mondale decided on Clift. The author explains the pitch he made for the job, in pages 130-134.

Clift's career in staffing summits began with preparations in 1971 for the 1972 U.S.-Soviet summit and ended in mid-1980s meetings with four African heads of state. Notable activities in between were a succession of visits by foreign leaders during America's Bicentennial and the 1978 Camp David summit on the Middle East.

Clift conveys a genuine flavor of the atmosphere that surrounds summits. For example, he describes Cyrus Vance whizzing back and forth on a golf cart between the courtly Menachem Begin and the reclusive Anwar Sadat, in a Camp David version of shuttle diplomacy. At the same time, this book is about process, not substance. The author lists the agenda, but he does not provide blow-by-blow accounts of negotiations or in-depth analyses of policy outcomes. However, his attention to detail is sometimes incredible, such as the exact weight of a cannon ball or the number of chandeliers and varieties of wood in a drawing room. Although Clift's record-keeping is indeed impressive, a reader hoping for juicy gossip will be disappointed. This is no Hollywood tell-all

book. By careful design, there are few controversial opinions about the substance of national security or foreign policy and no embarrassing reports about prominent foreign or domestic political personalities. In fact, Clift is practically deadpan in his description of Henry Kissinger, and he maintains the impassivity of a "perfect butler" with respect to all the presidents he served. One cannot help but wonder what he left out.

Clift views the role of the staffer as one not of presumption but of assistance. He cites with favor Franklin D. Roosevelt's observation that a good White House staff member should have a "passion for anonymity." Accordingly, the value of this book is that the author demonstrates that successful summits require painstaking preparation and perfect execution. *With Presidents to the Summit* tells what must be done and conveys a zero-tolerance for error by White House staff. This book was not written to appeal to everyone. It is a carefully crafted work by a gifted writer, targeted at the sophisticated student of national security or international affairs. A. Denis Clift admirably achieved the disciplined goals he set.

MYRON H. NORDQUIST
U.S. Air Force Academy

Taussig, Betty Carney. *A Warrior for Freedom*. Manhattan, Kan.: Sunflower Univ. Press, 1995. 225pp. \$27.97

This biography of Admiral "Mick" Carney, by his daughter Betty Carney Taussig, will be of much interest to any naval officer. It provides insights into

the unification of the services after World War II and the development of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It also contains information about command relationships in the Pacific and the workings of the staffs engaged in the war against Japan. This book was built around Admiral Carney's own 1963 oral history, into which the author has woven an account of his early life, and glimpses into his personality as revealed in letters and conversations with officers and men who served with him. In this oral biography and its vignettes from those who knew him, Carney's integrity, brilliance, professional ability, and sense of humor stand out.

Mick Carney, a Navy junior, graduated from the Naval Academy in 1916 and served in the USS *Fanning* (DD 37), operating out of Queenstown, Ireland, in World War I. In spring 1941 Carney joined the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) and helped organize the Lend-Lease convoys to England. In 1942 he commissioned the *Denver* (CL 58) and took it to the South Pacific, where, a year later, he became chief of staff to Admiral Halsey. After World War II Carney returned to Washington, D.C., where he became Deputy CNO for Logistics, and in 1953 the Chief of Naval Operations. He retired in 1955. After retirement from the Navy, he became active in the civilian world. When he died in 1990 he was ninety-five years old. In 1994 the USS *Carney* (DDG 64) was launched at Bath, Maine.

Carney spoke at the Naval War College a number of times. At one graduation he admitted to being "an impostor" in that he had never had the opportunity to attend. He considered the College a superb institution and