

1974

Challenge

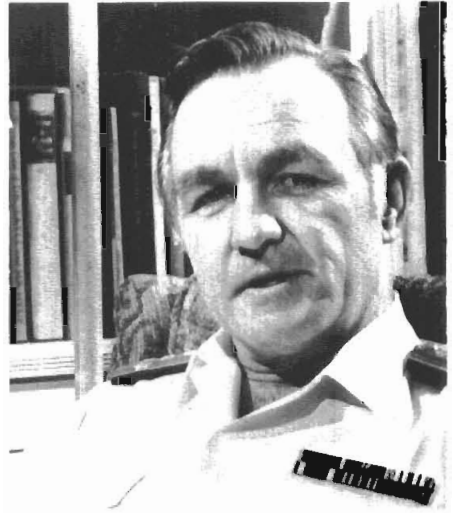
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CHALLENGE!

For the past 6 months, much of our attention has been devoted to the energy crisis. Some Americans have realized for the first time that seemingly boundless energy resources really do have limits, both physical and political. We have been reminded that even superpowers live in a small, interdependent world. As evidenced during the recent oil embargo, small and distant countries in that world have the means to disrupt and change our way of life.

Messrs. Blechman and Kuzmack, in the thought-provoking article "Oil and National Security," in this issue of the *Review*, explore the many sides to this problem. They conclude that stockpiling is the best alternative to insure against future interruptions of our needed oil supplies and carefully detail how this could be accomplished.

But what of the military? Can the military contribute anything to the resolution of this largely economic issue? Can the availability and display of military force prevent other nations from taking actions inimical to our interests, or doesn't this work any more? Is military action an acceptable means of forcing the removal of nonbelligerent embargoes or sanctions? Would stockpiling necessary raw materials be preferable to an equivalent investment in military forces? What of the inflexibility

of the stockpiling solution in light of changing circumstances versus the alternative uses of military forces?

Whatever the answers to these questions, it is incumbent on those of us in uniform to understand what Blechman and Kuzmack have to say. It is also important that we understand what part, if any, military force can play in solving this national problem. Presence forces can be a subtle, effective instrument of diplomacy when understood and used adroitly. However, it is my belief that the use of presence forces is not fully appreciated by the military. In addition, their potential effectiveness in low order contingency actions is largely neglected. Hopefully, the immediacy and shock of the energy crisis and articles like this one will stimulate us to probe more deeply into these areas.

Discussion of this subject presages the annual Current Strategy Forum we'll be hosting again in June. This year the whole problem of resource scarcities will be examined in support of the theme: "Resource Scarcity as a Possible Source of Future Conflict?"

Additionally, the need for deeper understanding of this type of politico-military problem highlights the importance of continuing research into naval theory. The War College has an Advanced Research Program. A few stu-

2 NAVAL WAR COLLEGE REVIEW

dents are permitted to participate, and modest grants are made to outside scholars. We are also anxious to recruit a few naval officers who would like to come to the college to devote a year or two exclusively to research in some area of their choice. The officer must have a project in mind and be qualified to do research. The opportunities are exciting and almost unlimited. The need for this kind of work by a few men in naval uniform is pressing. I solicit applications

from individuals themselves or nominations from friends who recognize a good candidate.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stansfield Turner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

STANSFIELD TURNER
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
President, Naval War College