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Carlucci Sees Push by Moscow in '80s

Says Mobile Forces Becoming Essential

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Washington Star Staff Writer

Frank C. Carlucci, designated for the No. 2 post at the Defense Department, says he expects Communists to step up subversion efforts in the Persian Gulf during the 1980s.

Carlucci, who was deputy director of the CIA in the Carter administration, told the Senate Armed Services Committee during his confirmation hearing yesterday that he "would not find it surprising" to see the Soviets' interest in the oil-rich region increase because their own domestic sources of oil will begin to run short of their needs at some point within the next 10 years.

"We need to improve our capabilities to deal with this subversive effort," said Carlucci, who added that new CIA data shows the Soviet Union is spending 160 percent of what the United States is spending for its general-purpose forces and more than three times what the United States is spending for strategic forces.

Carlucci said that one of the critical needs of the United States is for greater mobility of its forces. "It's extremely important now to put forces where they are needed and when they are needed, and in my judgment we just don't have that capability," said Carlucci, who has been receiving daily briefings on U.S. readiness at the Pentagon.

Carlucci also echoed the sentiments of the new defense secretary-designate, Caspar Weinberger, in indicating that one of his first priorities would be to try to deal with the Pentagon's mounting manpower problems. He said he was particularly concerned about the poor state of readiness of U.S. reserve forces, which are far short of the number of combat-ready soldiers they need.

Carlucci said he will also give priority to increasing operation and maintenance budgets of combat units and to rebuilding the services' inventories of spare parts.

Carlucci's position as deputy secretary is regarded as an extremely important one because the deputy has traditionally managed the day-to-day business of the Defense Department.

There has been concern within the Reagan administration and on Capitol Hill that there could be problems at Defense because neither Carlucci nor Weinberger has had direct experience at the Pentagon.

Sen. John Warner, R-Va., who introduced Carlucci at the hearings, said that Monday in a private meeting he was assured by Carlucci that "people with a solid defense background" are being considered "for key policy positions in the office of the secretary of defense."

Warner seemed to suggest that the No. 3 post at the Pentagon, that of undersecretary for policy, will go to a veteran Pentagon hand.

Carlucci, who appears to have no opposition on the committee, told members that he and Weinberger will work very closely.



Associated Press

CIA deputy director Frank Carlucci (right), President-elect Reagan's choice for deputy secretary of defense, talks with Sen. John Warner, R-Va., shortly before his confirmation hearing got under way yesterday on Capitol Hill.

"We don't divide up the pie, so to speak," said Carlucci, who worked under Weinberger at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and at the Office of Management and Budget during the Nixon-Ford years.

Carlucci explained that he will serve as a kind of administrative funnel, giving the issues that are sent to Weinberger a final screening. "We hope to confine our role to broad decisions," he said, noting that heavy emphasis will be given to long-range planning.

Although he has no direct experience at the Pentagon, Carlucci has had a broad career dealing with foreign affairs, national security, intelligence and budgetary matters. In addition to serving as the deputy director of the CIA, Carlucci has been ambassador to Portugal.

Carlucci was praised for his "tenacity" by Warner and several other members of the committee for refusing to comply with pressure from unnamed Carter administration officials to endorse the SALT II treaty during his tenure at the CIA.

Carlucci said he would not talk about the details of the episode, explaining only that he felt the agency's role should have been limited to a straight intelligence evaluation of the treaty.