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## Who Cares About Freedom?

Speaking last Sunday at the eleventh Commencement exercise of Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, Central Intelligence Agency Director George Bush raised the most important issue of our times, one to which every student, parent, faculty member and guest who heard him should give top priority in his thinking. (A strikingly similar theme, was sounded by former United Nations Ambassador Daniel Patrick Moynihan in his commencement address last Sunday at St. Anselm's College).

"All through our history," Bush pointed out, "we have had a commitment to freedom," but now, both our friends and foes all over the world are questioning the commitment of the United States to stop communism and to defend liberty and are wondering if that commitment is strong enough to make this country willing to sacrifice for its goals.

**THE ANSWER, WE FEAR, IS THAT NOT ONLY IS AMERICA NO LONGER WILLING TO SACRIFICE FOR FREEDOM, BUT ALSO THAT OUR CURRENT LEADERSHIP HAS DECIDED TO ACCOMMODATE THE ENEMIES OF FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD.**

In a recent column, former U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland Henry J. Taylor reflects on Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's visits with and promises of aid to leaders of African "nations" which prattle about democracy, but whose sole interest is power.

In Kenya, his host was the former murderous Mau Mau leader, President Jomo Kenyatta, who has "killed off his opponents with all the éclat of a Borgia at a feast," and for whom "no glittering luxury is today too good."

In Zaire, Kissinger saw dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, a "fake soothsayer with his rheumy metaphysics and huckster's magic," a "carny quack and total swine" who "lives a champagne life . . . while Zaire's impoverished people are too diseased to work at a trade and too miserable to have hope."

Columnist Taylor also cites "Field Marshal" Idi Amin, President of Uganda, who is notorious for blasting the United States, and Marien Ngonabi,

President of the Brazzaville Congo -- both of whom are ruthless killers who care not a whit for their enslaved people.

Commenting on the lunacy of proposing assistance to countries that lack "the essential underpinnings for an equivalent of the Marshall Plan that saved Europe," Taylor points out that the current total U.S. government debt and that of every segment of our society has increased to more than three trillion -- yes, trillion -- dollars!

There is a direct correlation, we suggest, between this nuzzling up to African dictators and the feeling of the new isolationists that the United States must accommodate itself to communism, its military power, the massive populations under its control, the persuasiveness of Marxist ideology to the masses of mankind.

The view that there is nothing extraordinarily wrong with communism as such, which holds also that the Soviet Union is not significantly worse than the United States, has become a major concern to increasing numbers of political commentators. For example, consider the question posed by CIA Director Bush before the backdrop of the perceptive observations offered by Commentary editor Norman Podhoretz in the April issue of the American Jewish Committee's monthly publication:

"What we see in this newly tolerant, and even benevolent, attitude toward communism is the slow erosion of our own sense of political value in response to the Communist challenge -- an accommodation in the sphere of ideas to match the accommodation we have been making in the sphere of power. Our own political culture has always held up liberty as the highest political value, while the political culture of communism has always scoffed at and denigrated liberty as a bourgeois delusion.

"Therefore, our unwillingness or inability to condemn their crimes against political liberty -- which they of course do not regard as crimes at all -- can fairly be described as a symptom of the surrender of our political culture to theirs."