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The Role of the Press in an Open Society

Philip Geyelin

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The Naval War College, since the days of Capt. A.T. Mahan, has borne a special responsibility for encouraging creative thought with regard to the strategic and tactical application of maritime power. Today, the requirement for creativity and innovation is especially demanding in view of the new ships, aircraft, weapon systems, and sensors now in the fleet or entering production—all this at a time when the political, economic, and military context in which the U.S. Navy must function is changing with astonishing rapidity.

To emphasize the role of the Naval War College in preparing our Navy for the future, the Secretary of the Navy, on 27 February 1975, approved an addition to the mission statement of the Naval War College, "... to conduct research leading to the development of advanced strategic and tactical concepts for the future employment of naval forces." The scope of what needs to be done is so vast that we at the College can only hope to make a partial contribution. Further, we are well aware of the vital roles played by the Chief of Naval Operations, Fleet Commands, and others in the development of strategic and tactical concepts. Our work will be undertaken in the closest coordination with all concerned. At the same time, I

believe that the Naval War College should play a vital role in this development process—while acting as a focal point of forward looking maritime research. Besides holding a core of human and material resources, the College possesses an appropriate setting for objective research in which those concerned will be able to pursue their work relatively free of the distractions of the daily crisis. I, for one, look forward to the creative work involved with a thorough appreciation of its difficult nature and with an enthusiasm summoned forth by the challenge. I expect to call upon the *Naval War College Review* to report the progress made in our research activity. Whereas it may not be feasible to go into precise detail for obvious reasons, I would hope to interest those with a flair for innovation to contribute to or participate in research undertaken by the College.

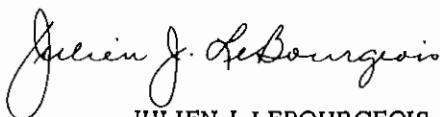
In this issue of the *Review* there are several provocative articles which should challenge the minds, and hopefully the pens, of our readers. Philip Geyelin's discourse, given at the Naval War College Military-Media Conference in November, provides his view of the role of a free press in a free society. Mr. Geyelin refers to the discussions which took place during a similar conference at the Marine Corps School as having

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been "like Bangladesh." Such was also the case during the Naval War College conference—neither the students nor the media representatives believed that the points they were making were fully understood. Certainly, there is no doubt of the need for a free press in a free society—the debate concerned very simply how the press should go about meeting its responsibilities. It is in this spirit that we highlight Geyelin's remarks in this issue and solicit the comments of our readers on what he had to say.

In other articles, this issue of the *Review* turns to the lessons and examples of the past, both recent and not so recent. Professor Crowl of our

faculty gives an interesting new perspective on the approach of John Foster Dulles toward relations with the Soviet Union—a topic of special interest today. Professor Schroeder, in discussing the balance of power, turns our attention to the policies of the last century; but in reading his article we should also bear in mind that the same theories of balance have had a strong influence on contemporary international relations.



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