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Challenge

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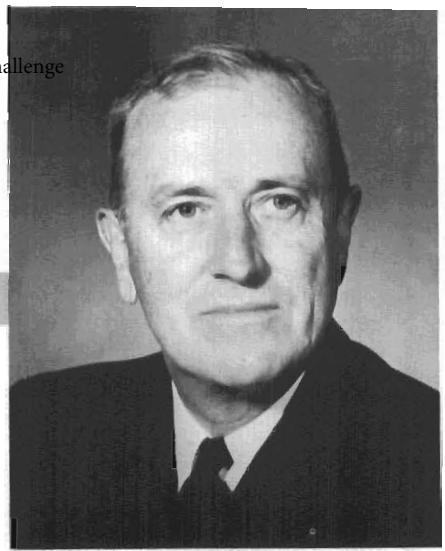
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CHALLENGE !

The challenge implicit in adapting U.S. defense posture to the financial and political realities behind the Nixon Doctrine is being met throughout the Armed Forces in several ways. A program at the Naval War College, which has contributed extensively in the past to free world cooperation and should be responsible for even greater contributions in the future, is the Naval Command College. This college was created to prepare specially selected senior naval officers from other free world countries for higher command responsibilities in their own navies and to familiarize them with the methods, practices, and doctrines of the U.S. Navy. Each year between 20 and 30 senior naval officers from as many nations are invited to participate in a 10-month program of lectures, seminars, and discussions. In the words of Vice Admiral Richard G. Colbert, the first director of the NCC and past president of the Naval War College, the program is "an open exchange of thoughts, opinions and ideas—essentially focused on how all our navies, working together, can better ensure the peace and security of the free world."

Today it seems evident that freedom, strength, and stability can only be preserved with an increasing effort on the part of the nations of the free world to cooperate in the quest for peace and in the interest of mutual defense. President Nixon has called for increased cooperation by friendly nations to fulfill the obligations that the United States once accepted unilaterally. In the President's words, "Peace requires partnership and strength. Insisting that other nations play a role is not a retreat from responsibility, it is a sharing of



responsibility." This emphasis on allied cooperation is an important foundation of the President's foreign policy. A realistic and forward-looking foreign policy it is one that will depend increasingly on sea-based forces. Thus it becomes important for the senior naval officers of the free world nations to achieve viable working relationships.

For 15 years the Naval Command College has been engaged in fostering a climate of partnership among the free world navies. From the outset, emphasis was placed on the need to maximize international cooperation to achieve common goals. Throughout the curriculum the student is provided opportunities to increase his understanding not only of the professional aspects of naval strategy, but also of the more subtle implications underlying relationships between nations.

Soon after arrival in Newport, the student officers are invited to become actively involved in the social milieu of their host nation through informal lectures, receptions, and personal contacts. The Naval Command College itself provides a further opportunity for these future senior commanders to observe and to evaluate American life and American government by means of field study trips. Almost 20 percent of the academic year of the Naval Command College is devoted to these trips which provide an awareness of the complex

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interrelationships that form the basis of American society.

Alumni have reported that perhaps their greatest benefits stem from personal contact with one another. In the 14 years since the first class graduated from the Naval Command College, many lasting international friendships have developed among the officers taking part in the program.

The curriculum of the Naval Command College is divided into nine studies. An introductory period offers a brief orientation to the Naval War College and to the Newport community. Subsequent study phases include Strategy and Seapower, Management and Seapower, International Organizations and Defense Arrangements, Naval Operations, Naval Planning and Operations, and an extensive study of the Future and Seapower, examining the significance of seapower to the nations of the free world in providing for their common defense.

A closely related and increasingly significant part of the academic schedule is the opportunity provided for individual and group research. Last year a most notable research project examined "the feasibility of designing a small combatant vessel with appeal to the Navies of the Free World." The resulting paper, entitled "Free World Frigate," was reviewed with keen

interest both in Washington and at other naval ministries. We should hear more of this in subsequent months.

The unique program offered in the Naval Command College has proven to be highly successful in the past. Naval officers from 43 nations have attended the college since its inception, and the record of their personal achievements is impressive. Of some 392 graduates, 138 have already attained flag rank and 22 have become Chief of Naval Operations in their own navies. This record will improve as graduates gain sufficient seniority in their services to reach flag grade.

By contributing to friendship and unity, by encouraging free world nations to cooperate, and by permitting mature naval officers of friendly nations the opportunity to become familiar with the United States and the methods and tactics of the U.S. Navy, the Naval Command College is a positive U.S. Navy effort in support of the Nixon Doctrine.



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