

FOREIGN POLICY & DEFENSE

Nor will the pipeline make Western Europe dangerously dependent on Moscow. West Germany, Italy, and France will indeed rely on the Soviets for 35 percent of their natural gas, or six percent of their total energy needs. But Stern notes that Soviet oil exports will dwindle after 1985, a year after the pipeline becomes operational, thus keeping down Western Europe's total Soviet energy imports. A sudden cutoff of Soviet supplies would cause problems. But as France demonstrated when Algeria halted shipments of liquefied natural gas in 1980, remedies exist: other sources or kinds of fuel, reduced consumption. Far worse would be increased Western European reliance on OPEC—the only realistic long-term alternative to the pipeline.

The chief threat posed by the pipeline, says Stern, is to Western unity; the episode is a “classic example of how not to manage an alliance.”

Gung Ho, Again

“The Marine Corps Faces the Future” by Michael Wright, in *The New York Times Magazine* (June 20, 1982), 229 West 43rd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

Its ordeal during the Vietnam era “nearly left the Marine Corps a burnt-out case,” writes Wright, a *New York Times* editor. Now the Corps' fortunes have improved.

In 1965–73, the Marines lost 13,066 killed and 51,392 wounded in their battles to defend northern South Vietnam. Meanwhile, race riots raged in barracks at home and abroad. Desertion rates soared. Recruiting declined. And in Washington's sour post-Vietnam climate, think-tank analysts, Army critics, and Federal budget-cutters began to question (once again) the need for an austere but large (192,000-man) seaborne intervention force with its own aircraft.

Getting the Corps back to basics was the first task of two successive Marine commandants, Generals Louis H. Wilson and Robert H. Barrow. Starting in 1975, training was improved and discipline tightened; some 5,000 “undesirables” were discharged; many of the best Marines were assigned recruiting duty. Today, 82 percent of all Marine “boots” (trainees) are high school graduates—up from 50 percent seven years ago. First-termers' re-enlistments are up to a record, nearly 50 percent, and the court-martial rate is down.

What gave the Corps new life in Washington were the 1979 Iran crisis and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Some 12,000 Marines were earmarked for President Carter's standby Rapid Deployment Force for the Persian Gulf. President Reagan's subsequent emphasis on a global “maritime” strategy meant a bigger Navy, including reactivated battleships, to help the amphibious Marines fight future “brushfires.”

On Capitol Hill, the Marines have friends among both the “reformers,” who like the Corps' mobility and frugality (it absorbs only three percent of the Pentagon's budget), and the “hard-liners,” who admire Marine combat-readiness. New jet fighters, armored vehicles, advanced antitank and anti-aircraft missiles, and amphibious vessels

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A World War I recruiting poster. Plans to merge the Marine Corps into the Army or drastically cut its size after the Korean War were thwarted by former "leathernecks" in Congress. Today, the Corps is the only military service to enjoy a legislated minimum force structure.

Defense Department Photo (Marine Corps).

are on their way to the troops.

With a revived mission and better weaponry to back up its traditional esprit, Wright concludes, the Marine Corps now again seems likely to survive as the nation's proud "all-American anachronism" among the services.

Lebanon's Future

"A House Divided" by Adam Zagorin, in *Foreign Policy* (Fall 1982), P.O. Box 984, Farmingdale, N.Y. 11737.

Now that the worst of the fighting in Beirut has ended, peace and stability may be within reach. But U.S. foreign policy-makers must realize that trying to re-establish a strong central government may make peace harder to achieve, cautions Zagorin, a *Time* correspondent.

Political fragmentation has become economic fragmentation in Lebanon. Since Moslem-Christian strife broke out in 1975, more than 40 warring factions, split along religious and political lines, have developed. The economy has fared surprisingly well, quickly rebounding when factional fighting first died down in 1976, though slowing to a growth rate below three percent after hostilities were renewed in 1977. Bank deposits have quadrupled to \$8 billion since 1975.

But the central government is in bad straits. Tax collection ceased almost entirely after 1975. In 1978, 1979, and 1980, the budget deficit