

DISARMING THE MILITIA

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Several excellent articles have recently appeared which outline in clear terms the elements of Public Law 87-287 (1961) which in turn is succinctly summarized in Department of State Publication 7277 and an expanded bulletin "Blueprint For The Peace Race, Outline of Basic Provisions of A Treaty On General And Complete Disarmament In A Peaceful World." (US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency Publication 4).

These publications describe a three stage disarmament program which provides for the progressive strengthening of the United Nations forces with a corresponding decrease in US forces. In Stage 3, internal forces are sufficient only to maintain internal security. In order to maintain "world peace", military strength would be concentrated solely with a single socialist foreign power, the United Nations. Specific elements of the Act provide for progressive reductions in soldiers, armaments, military bases and other aspects of military power.

As we enter the third phase of disarmament described in the Act the reduction of our armed forces is on schedule and continues. The astute observer might see the obvious dichotomy between pre-election vows to maintain and strengthen our armed forces and PL 87-297 which pledges us to complete and general disarmament. On the other hand, gun rights advocates who have difficulty in viewing politicians as disingenuous might do well to consider the implications of PL 87-297.

In Stage 3 of the Act final reduction in force levels are to be achieved. In addition to reductions in regular forces, the United States must also "disband systems of reserve forces, cause to be disbanded organizational arrangements comprising and supporting their national military establishment...". For those who have not noticed, Title 10 CFR, Section 311 defines the unorganized militia as part of the armed forces. A reasonable person might readily conclude that the unorganized militia is part of that "reserve" force to be disbanded.

One article celebrated the fact that 87-297 was amended by PL 88-186 to preserve citizen rights to firearms ownership. The amendment reads: "Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to authorize any policy or action by any Government agency which would interfere with, restrict, or prohibit the acquisition, possession, or use of firearms by an individual for the lawful purpose of personal defense, sport, recreation, education, or training."

Personal defense and the rights to small arms notwithstanding, overlooked is the relationship between the intent and the specific language of the Act. The mechanism for our collective, or common defense remains unprotected. Missing is provision for the "security of a free State" as guaranteed by the Second Amendment. Defend yourself if you can, but not your neighborhood, your community, your state or nation.

The disbandment and disarmament of citizens who might function as the reserve, or unorganized militia is already planned and incrementally being implemented as part of Stage 3 of Public Law 87- 297. Your government has already decided that the "lawful" rights of the People do not include the Constitutionally unalienable right to keep and bear arms as the militia.

Do you think you can so easily vote the problem away, or maybe that the NRA never noticed that our fundamental Second Amendment rights have been unequivocally compromised at least since 1961? What do you do when idealism tarnishes and reality sets in?

President Kennedy, commenting on the policy for general and complete disarmament in 1961 called us "...not to an arms race but to a peace race...". In the real world of ambition, greed and lust for power ... let us call it what it is: a race toward false ideals and national suicide.